Duncan Mackay in Athens

AURICE GREENE ushered in a new era for United States sprinting when he became the first American since Carl Lewis in 1991 to win a major 100 metres title with his triumph in the World Championships in the Olympic Stadium here last Sunday.

Greene, aged 22, claimed the \$60,000 first prize after beating the defending champion Donovan Bai-ley following a bullet-like start that catapulted him to a time of 9.86 seconds, equalling the championship record set by Lewis in Tokyo six years ago. The consolation for Bailey, who finished 0.05sec behind Greene, was that his world record of 9.84sec survived as the warm weather gave way to cool, overcast

ment for Ato Boldon, Greene's training partner. Once again, his pre-race prediction of victory in a world-record time turned out to be a

The Trinidadian, who had missed Bailey's mark by 0.03sec in the heats, finished fifth in 10.02sec after suffering from cramp. Tim Montgomery, Greene's US team-mate,

Deed in battle (6)

round later? (9)

ice-house (5)

settlement (9)

4 Cut short a game (7)

9 Cruel German emissary coming

10 Alternative part of regular beat

11 Soldler putting back game in

13 Willing to try cooked tea (7)

15 Card-holding merchant? (6)

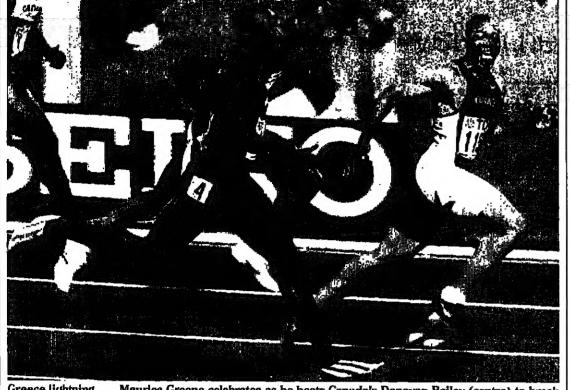
19 Sat again and rested (7)

17 Just claims or oral ceremonies

12 Confession at modern religious

Two hours earlier the curtain had

Cryptic crossword by Janus



Greece lightning . . . Maurice Greene celebrates as he beats Canada's Donovan Bailey (centre) to break

best pieces of theatre in sport when | I was fine, then another Bailey was | the heats in Gothenburg in 1995 Boldon sailed through to the final while Darren Campbell finished eighth in 10.37sec. That left Britain without a representative in the last eight in this event for the first time

in the championship's history. In the next semi-final, Greene and Bailey, running in adjacent lanes, eyeballed each other as they crossed the line. Bailey, showing no ill-effects from the cramp which seemed to affect him in the opening rounds, clocked 9.91sec.

Bailey was defiant in defeat. "I'm a fighter," he said. "Until 60 metres

24 Rare single extract from

28 He might be expecting

29 Very large quarry for

river (9)

Down

turpentine residue (5)

26 Sald to be correct pen (5)

27 Run down rating swimming in

supporters to hold one (7)

1 A believer and an unbeliever (7)

3 Manipulator causing tea-shop to

2 Hang behind on track (5)

running. I'm not looking for excuses, I've just had too many problems this season."

Greene's rise to the top began last September when his father spent two days driving him across America, from Kansas to Los Angeles, to join the coach John Smith, whose training group includes Boldon and José-Marie Pérec.

He was so unknown at the start of the season that he did not merit a mention in the ATFS annual, the sport's handbook of statistics. But then he had been knocked out in

4 Adopted and taken for granted

5 Capital way round disturbances

and until less than two months ago

had not broken 10sec. Now he is the

third-fastest man in history. "Some-

one had to take charge of American

sprinting and it fell to me," Greene

There was also the coronation of new American queen in the women's 100 metres when the 21year-old Californian Marion Jones completed an equally remarkable journey with victory by 0.02sec over the Ukraine's Zhanna Pintussevich in 10.83sec. It had seemed a preco-

nort when Jones took up a basket oall scholarship, but she returned to the track last year.

There had been controversy fore the race when Merlene Offer failed to hear the recall gun alers false start. She completed 60 meters before the crowd alerted her to the nistake. The energy expended took is toll second time round and the inished seventh.

There was an exciting trailer for the big production when German's Heinz Weis snatched the golf medal in the hammer from the Ukraine's Andrei Skvaruk with

Weis stopped for a momentaile! shot put circle during his lap of has our to encourage his team-nute Sabine Braun as she tried to extend her lead over Denise Lewis in the neptathlon. His euphona dealt rubbed off because Braun three 1 personal-best 15.08m.

Lewis hit back by adding 19cm to her own best of 14.36m, but at the end of the first day the Briton va ying fourth, 121 points behind the 1991 world champion, having 💤 🎉 clattered the seventh barrier.

On the second day Lewisdid will n her specialist events — the kea jump and javelin - but the gain the 800 metres was too large by close, and she had to settle for sike ' behind Braun's gold.

Australia's Cathy Freeman on: came a bad draw in lane one to E the women's 400m title in 49.75% The Aboriginal athlete defied the tight bends to hold off the fasto ishing Sandie Richards of Jamaica

There was an upset in the mor-400m hurdles when Stephane [6] gana of France beat the favor? Bryan Bronson to claim gold 17,70sec. South Africa's Headle cious teenage talent was lost to the

TheGuardian

Vol 157, No 7 Week ending August 17, 1997



On a clear day . . . US envoy Richard Holbrooke at a Belgrade press conference Serb ally vows to oust Karadzic

Karen Coleman in Sarajevo

PICHARD HOLBROOKE, the US diplomat who was architect of the Dayton peace accords, ended his brief visit to Belgrade last weekend saying he had extracted a promise that the indicted war criminal Radovan Karadzic will finally disappear from Bosnian politics.

Mr Holbrooke said Momeilo

railsnik, the hardline Serb member. of the Bosnian presidency, "offered a unilateral undertaking" to fulfil the greement of July last year which Mr Karadzic, the former Bosnian Serb leader, had "shredded",

Under the deal, Mr Karadzle stepped down as Bosnian Serb presient and was supposed to quit olides. But he did not. Rather, he as managed to run the Republika irpska from his headquarters in Pale, flouting the Dayton accords and

cessor as president, Biljana Plavsic.
A senior source said Mr Holbrooke gave no deadline for Mr Krajisnik to make good his promise about Mr Karadzic, but said that it "would not be for ever".

"Are we satisfied?" Mr Holbrooke said. "Of course not. There has been no change on the American position — indicted war criminals must be brought to justice."

Observers believe Mr Karadzic's days are now numbered. Increasingly, whatever advantages the Serbs may accrue by protecting him seem to be outwelghed by the costs. In what remains of Yugoslavia there are also doubts that the

Yugoslav strongman, Slobodan Milosevic, could stomach another round of economic sanctions - this time for falling to deliver Mr Karadzic to international justice For much of his visit Mr Hol-

The Hague. He disnussed the idea that he could be tried in the Republika Srpska, a suggestion Mr Karadzic himself made to the German newspaper Stiddeutsche Zeitung last week. There are, however, three key in-

lividuals who may not be keen to see Mr Karadzic make the trip to the letherlands. One is Mr Karadzic himself. The second is Mr Milosevic, who may find it somewhat disturbing to have Mr Karadzic perhaps testifying that it was he, the Yugoslav leader, who gave the orders for atrocties against Muslims.
The third is Mr Krajisnik, who
played a powerful role in the Serb

leadership during the conflict,
The dilemma Mr Karadzic's situation poses for other Serb leaders has led to speculation about how conve-

Thais bailed out in \$16bn rescue deal

Whaleselve

The Unotangline Shift (Ellengille)

Nick Cumming-Bruce n Bangkok

HAILAND is to receive credit amounting to more than \$16 billion from the International Monetary Fund and Pacific rim countries in what is the biggest loan to a single nation since the rescue of Mexico two years ago.

But news of the Thai bail-out, stitched together at a meeting in Tokyo and expected to help firm up a shaky baht, came as already jittery nvestors' worries about neighbouring Malaysia's economy saw a sharp full in the ringgit.

Under agreements reached on Monday with the Thai finance minister, Thanong Bidaya, the IMF and lapan will each provide credit of 54 billion, four other countries -Australia, Hong Kong, Malaysia and Singapore — will each provide \$1 billion, and South Korea and Indonesia will each put up \$500 million.

China is also considering joining the rescue - and its contribution. together with credit expected from the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank - could make a further \$3 billion available to Thailand's embattled authorities. The United States, the lead player in Mexico's rescue, has said it will support the package for Thailand hrough its role in the IMF.

Much of the credit, which exceeds the amount specified in previous discussions, is expected to go towards shoring up Thailand's for-eign reserves. The Thai central bank reported last week that, as of the end of July, these still stood at more than \$32 billion. "In a technical sense, the figures may be accurate," a Western banker in Bangkok commented. "But you don't go to the IMF if you have that much in vour reserves."

For many investors the crucial issue is not the size of credits but the ability of the IMF to establish full control over an economy in which policy and practice have been heavily shaped by political and

The skyscrapers on Bangkok's skyline, once a sign of Thalland's place at the centre of Asia's boom, are now conspicuous symbols of a shocking and, for investors, unnerving bust.

The closure of 42 finance companies last week was a warning sign. The closures caused pandemonium and panic throughout the financial community, and the public is wondering where the rot will stop.

They are paying the price for what economists now see as a foolhardy binge. Thailand is nursing close to 890 billion in toreign debt. some 870 billion belonging to private companies. When Mexico hit financial rocks two years ago, its ratio of loans to GDP was around 45 per cent. In Thailand it is nearer 125 per cent.

The government has already agreed in principle to swingeing budget cuts and a rise in value added tax from 7 to 10 per cent. But as the US Deputy Treasury Secretary, Lawrence Summer remarked last week, another important ingredient is "greatly improved trans-parency" in management of the

The prime minister, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, took office eight months ago promising to reverse the slump left by a government that Thais regarded as one of the most corrupt anyone could remember. Unfortunately General Chavalit. keeping on many of the ministers from that dubious coalition, has often seemed more interested in asserting his control over all areas of government than in tackling the

Le Monde, page 20

Midnight's children mellow at 50

Israel spurns bomb victim

Blair triumphs in first 100 days

Microsoft takes 14 bite of Apple

Belglum shamed by Muslim girl

Maita 50c
Netherlands G 4.75
Norway NK 18
Portugal E300
Saudi Arabia SR 6.50
Spain P 300
Sweden SK 19
Switzerland SE 2.20 FF 13 DM 4 DR 450 Sweden SK 19 L 3,000 Switzerland SF 3,30

Rugby Union Tri-Nations Championship

Name ships by the book (9)

Stretch former nurse (6) Ambassador providing the French with an opening (6)

Sheltering many in shepherd's 16 When father rejected sugar as

table delicacy (9) 18 A foot of water in bishop's patch

19 One of 5 needing putting down? 20 Studies cathedral closely (7)

21 Savage-sounding yarn (6)

23 Discuss pleasure excursion (5) 25 Step teacher accepts thanks for

Last week's solution

DOORMAT PERUSED
ESSER COURTSHIP
A I C I TOZYELL
REFRACTION ARGO
T.Y NESCEEOMM
TOWEROFPISA
OSEI HAAF DOT FSE ESLEGATIVICE
INCOSECRETVICE
TO TOUMROSE SVICT

GRITZABARES SEE L with two Australian Capital EYESHOT OBSCURE

Knox sweeps Boks aside

Greg Growden in Brisbane

AVID KNOX's return had the desired effect on Australia. It reminded them how to play adventurous football and prompted a morale boosting and resounding 32-20 victory over South Africa at Suncorp Stadium last Saturday.

It was a brave move of Australia's selectors to recall Knox from Durban to replace the injured Tim Horan at fly-half, but it worked. The Wallabies were transformed, playing with the at-tacking zeal which made them a world force in the early pineties.

It also proved that the selectors were on the wrong track in trying to turn Horan from a world-class centre into a fly-half almost overnight. During that back line play was unimpressive and predictable, often wasting opportunities by focusing on driving through the midfield, close to the ruck or maul, or turning the attack back inside towards

the forwards. With the return of a playmaker, Australia were able to change attacking options and make proper use of their excellent wings, Joe Roff and Ben ...

Relishing the chance to play

hulf George Gregan and Jana Hollocck at centre, Knox lick started the back line, enabling the Wallables to have the game won at half-time when theyled 26-10 having scored four ties, including a double from Tune.

Knox varied his game per-fectly, throwing the back hand pass when required to wronged the South African defence and kicking when the moment de manded. So often criticised his poor defence, he even was involved in the occasional "It was made a lot easier in

me that a few blokes out there did the tackling for me, like David Wilson, James Holbed and Brett Robinson. Sc I had plenty of energy left when I pl the ball," Knox said.

Africa have suffered an alarg drop in standards since belof narrowly beaten by the All in Johanneaburg three week ago. Their defence was extra poor and they lacked the hart headed arrogance which che terised past Springbok side Australia had done their res and exploited the weakne South African defensive lin half and in the centre.

Australia directed many their attacks through that # and South Africa rarely pro any resistance.

BRITISH support for the royal family has alumped below 50 per cent for the first time, according to a Guardian/ICM poll published this week, with a growing minority believing that Britain would be better off without the monarchy.

The poll also shows that in ime solid support for the royal family will literally "die out" with he over 65s, the only age group to show a clear majority who beieve Britain would be worse off thout them. The spectacular fall in popular

support for the royal family

down from 70 per cent three The main findi years ago — reveals the damage inflicted on its reputation by the repeated revelations culminating i intense speculation about the new relationship between Diana, Princess of Wales, and Dodi

Fayed, son of the Harrods chair-man (story, page 8). But the poll also shows that, despite the warfare between Diana and the Prince of Wales on the world public relations stage, support has grown over the past, support has grown over the past, year for the prince to become king if he marries Camilla Parker Bowles. There is, however, continuing hostility to Prince Charles naming her as queen.

greater uncertainty and sceptiism now among the British oublic about whether the country would be better or worse off without the monarchy than three years ago, when ICM last asked the question. Solid support for the mon-

archy held up from 1987 until 1994 with the royal family recording positive ratings above 70 per cent on repeated polls.
But the latest survey shows that its reputation has suffered a biddy blow, with the proportion who think Britain would be worse off without them falling to 48 points. Outright hostility to

Britain falling out of love with its royals the royal family has grown from 13 per cent a decade ago to 30 The last three years has also seen a jump in the proportion of

people who say that they no

longer know whether the monarchy is a good thing or not, from five points to 21 points. A look at the age breakdown niso shows that, as time goes by, public attitudes will move towards republicanism, mirroring: the findings of recent opinion surveys in Australia which show

many young people view the royal family us an irrelevance. Nearly half those interviewed believed the monarchy would fall within 50 years, although nearly four out of five believe it will purDI

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do we live in terror?, August 3). However, as I read through what is little more than an opinionated, il informed diatribe, I felt my blood beginning to boil. I feel that Mr Furedi is looking at society and the world we live in with a very narrow and outdated perspective.

"Young women are particularly prone to panics of the Pill and TSS [toxic shock syndrome] variety" perhaps the most striking example of his myopic views. The reason why a growing number of women are looking at chlorine-filled tampons with wary eyes is because they have become educated to the very real concerns about placing foreign objects inside themselves. One woman I worked with, who is a vocal activist about the risks of TSS, was left almost dead and permanently deaf due to her body rejecting tampons.

Similarly, the Pill is a far from perfect solution to contraception and when the male Pill is available it will be interesting to see if Mr Furedi Is so flippant about the risks.

There is indeed a culture of fear endemic in Britain and throughout the Western world, and it lies in the fruitless search for security and happiness through material acquisition. In a society where we allow ourselves to become passive victims to a gore-mongering media, it is no surprise that security products sell

However, to tie this fear into very sane and reasonable response by women wanting healthy control over their bodies is a very shallow inquiry. We do not live in terror because we care about our health; The solution is hardly "the morality we live in terror because we con- of low expectation" but the emer-

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WAS delighted to see the title of the article by Frank Furedi (Why wrong places. Charlie Rinchlach Montreal, Canada

> TRANK FUREDI wants to detraumatise us, and who could wish otherwise? By ridiculing TSS for lack of evidence, he wishes to magic away BSE, nuclear radiation, 'potential" environmental disasters such as global warming, and the nuncturing of the ozone layer.

It is the psychology of "either/or" that is unfruitful, Either all terror is groundless or all life is terror. It is encouraging that, in spite of commercial manipulation and jumping on the bandwagon, ordinary people are willing to overturn accepted norms. Is the insertion of a foreign body to stem menstruation the best response? Perhaps sanitary towels were a better compromise between onvenience, freedom and nature.

Could there be a growing feeling that modern technology has been too facile when it approached the realm of the organic, the living, and that the "scares" trigger an underlying scepticism when we know that the big disasters are for real, and that politicians as well as business fiddle while Rome burns?

Is it so facile to believe the hormonal interference of the Pill could ossibly have detrimental effects? That "today's commonly used brands contain a fraction of the hormones used by women who took the Pill in the seventies" only underlines the point of its dubious former character.

Yes, social and communal solidarity lsas weakened and we can trace it back to the industrial revolution.

255

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gence of the will to tackle real issues from the grassroots and examine the realities of TSS, etc. and then judge. A true examination of childhood would yield some new answers there to put our fears of the deranged in perspective, but who can pretend they do not exist at all?

A sane evaluation of the need for gadgetry would also ease our security complexes. But so also would good government and a mitigation of poverty and inequality. When we begin to face these realities, then we can have some confidence to relax and enjoy ourselves. And surrounded by people who care, the young may find the freedom to be, as well as the ideals worth fighting or, beyond the escapism of drugs and sex, which are allowed to domi nate adult society too.

Brian Dawes,

∧ LITTLE panic is appropriate and healthy in a crisis. If there really is something to worry about, then Furedi is encouraging complacency. Peter Adams. Stroud. Gloucestership

Shop till you

drop? No thanks WAS dismayed by Linton Weeks's lauding of the United States' supe-

riority over Europe in its ability to "mine the economic value of time" (Night is right for 24-hour business, August 3). That more Americans are staying awake at night to find leisure exemplifies the failure of the global economy to better the quality of life in the world's most prosperous land. It appears as if the brutally long work regimens and lack of job security of so-called "flexible" entployment allows no time for any-

I am an American living and working in Europe. I surf the Internet at home and can stroll down to the local 7-11 at any hour to buy my Coke if I so choose. I can also see first hand the effects of "higher European social welfare costs" that keep us "mired in an antiquated system", that "thwart(s) change" People here have what in the US seems to be in increasingly short supply . . . a life, less stress, and more sleep.

Ioshua Gross, Copenhagen, Denmark

A S AN American abroad, I was genuinely saddened by Linton Weeks's article about the burgeoning around-the-clock consumerism in the US. While extolling the virtues of 24-hour shopping convenience in a super-efficient modern economy, the article paints a picture of a country where "everyone's under an enormous amount of strain" leading a "hectic", "stressful ever sleep". If we insist on continually escalating this frenzy of mindless consumerism, we are going to end up forfeiting our most cherished birthright — individual liberty.

Not the freedom to buy toothpaste at 3am, but the ability to live as free human beings in a sane environment. And for what - to win a destructive race to consume a disproportionate share of the world's resources, and to spawn a few more

mega-corporations and billionaires? When will Americans awake from this nightmare of round-the-clock consumption and empty materialism? Or maybe everyone's just too | Peacefund Canada, Toronto, Canada | e-mail: weeky@guardian.co.uk

tired to be aroused after a 60-hour work week and a midnight trip to Wal-Mart?

Paul Capcara Savannakhet, Laos

Goodbye to all that

IN ABANDONING Rockall as the westernmost limit of her territory (Britain to cede Atlantic rights, July 3), Britain is finally accepting that it is the victim of a legal principle it was previously able to use to considerable advantage in creating its empire. As far back as the 16th century,

England disputed Spanish claims to North America because Spain had not established "effective occupation" in large parts of the territory. The English colonies that became Canada and the United States were the result. In 19th century Africa, Cecil Rhodes tried to take the copper-rich Katanga on the grounds that Leopold II of the Belgians had not effectively occupied the area he claimed. Rhodes lost.

The concept of effective occupations was used to justify and delimit many instances of imperial expansion. In applying the principle, Europeans assumed that the land they were annexing was terra nullius previously unoccupied. Native Americans, Africans and Australians were not consulted

In the 1950s and 1970s the International Court of Justice applied the principle of effective occupation in the dispute between France and Britain over the Channel Islets, the Minquiers and Ecrehos. Though impossible for anyone to live on, the hope of finding substantial mineral wealth made them seem worth arguing over.

The closest Britain has ever come to "effectively occupying" Rockall has been to send a civil servant out to land and remain on the islet, sea and tide permitting, for a short period once a year. Greenpeace has done rather more than that and might be said to have the better claim, Simon Katzenellenbogen,

Department of History. University of Manchester

Whose hand is on the trigger?

THE press in Canada recently reported two horrifying developments: both the British and Canadian governments are prepared to sell weapons to the Indonesian dictatorship. That is not surprising given Ottawa and London's lust for trade, but what is interesting is the similarity in their justification: both suggest that the weapons would not have been sold if it were likely they would kill Timorese.

But that line of argument is misrven ii ine weapons arei killing Timorese directly - and that is debatable - the fact remains that they strengthen the dictatorship's hand. If Canadian armoured vehicles are performing services for the Indonesian army elsewhere, they free up equipment that can, and

does, kill people in East Timor. Amnesty International says about 200,000 Timorese - one-third of the population — have been killed since Indonesia invaded in 1975. The question at its simplest is: do Canada and Britain want to be party to this genocide? Gideon Forman.

Briefly

THEY came in and sat down other prospective clients. Thus begins the article by Suzanne Golden berg (July 27). Who are they and whose desk is it? Am I reading news report, or a short story? Please, dear editors, nip this train style in the bud. The United States number-one-or-two news weekly le notorious for making every article. mystery in this way, but the Guardian Weekly should know

Lee Hartman. Bloomington, Indiana, USA

WHEN Derek Malcolm reviewed the New Zealand movie Desperate Remedies a coult of years ago he expressed surprise that anything intelligent could come out of this country. He recently reviewed the NZ movie Broken English (August 3) and said the film was "an important subject mater for a country where inter-racial relation tionships sometimes cause appalling conflicts". Would it be fair to say that nothing about our inter-racial relationships causes 'ap palling conflicts" that come within cooee of the murderous interests incidents reported in the UK? loe Musabhia Vellington, New Zealand

Graham Smith,

out where?

David V Avila,

Ottawa, Canada

dha pays dividends.

Sydney, Australia

DETRA COVENEY'S article [4]

that 1 million people aged betses 17 and 35 take E each weekend.

Based upon the number of or

sumers cited and approximatel 1

in Britain every year. That is

JES, Sheila Ross, of course to

and he's not the only one is

saves, Moses invests, but only

The Guardia

August 17, 1997 Vol 157-No 7

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has a bank account (Augus!

13) states that "it is estimate

May 1999. US diplomats now say AMES Woods's appraisal of Jack that deadline should be brought for-London is flawed and partial ward by up to a year. (July 24). What about his socio-The new proposals represent a political work? Martin Eden People loss of confidence in the Oslo strut-Of The Abyss and The Iron Heelae cgy of building mutual confidence remarkable books informed by by small incremental steps. In the solid socialist principles and a wake of the March breakdown in positive view of human nature. The talks caused by a Jewish housing fron Heel, for example, is a class: project in Arab East Jerusalem and political thriller as well as a dea. he market bombing last month, US concise analysis of the way big bus officials believe a more radical ness contrives to protect its into approach is required. ests from the threat of worker "Oslo is not sacrosanct," a US movements and democratic force diplomat said in Jerusalem. "It's a n general. London should not be

framework, and frameworks change . With the gradualist approach, there are so many points along the way where a bomb can undo the whole process."

Mr Ross was facing an uphill struggle in his bid to restore mutual confidence after the bombing. The Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat, and the Israeli prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, both offered widely differing interpretations of Mr Ross's mission after separate meetings with him.

US seeks speedy

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

HE United States is poised to

East that will abandon the gradual

approach of the 1993 Oslo accords

and aim at a final settlement as early

as next spring, US officials said last

Dennis Ross, Washington's spe-

cial envoy, arrived in Israel last

weekend to prepare the ground by

estoring co-operation between

alestinian and Israeli security

forces after the suicide bombing of

which 13 people were killed.

sent the new initiative.

lerusalem.

Jerusalem market last month in

Mr Ross's mission, if successful,

will be followed later this month by

a visit by the US secretary of state,

Madeleine Albright, who will pre-

The US package would involve al-

most immediate talks on the funda-

mental points of contention: the

presence of Jewish settlements in

Arab areas, the return of refugees,

the size and nature of any future

Palestinian state, and the fate of

In Oslo, all four issues were put

aside for future negotiations aimed

at a final settlement scheduled for

launch an ambitious new

peace initiative in the Middle

Mr Netanyahu's spokesman, David Bar-Illan, said its sole purpose was "to persuade the Palestinian Authority that it must fight terrorism". But Mr Arafut insisted that "talks were not confined to security matters", hinting there would a political trade-off for security co-

Mr Ross did, however, bring Israeli officials together with Mr Arafat for the first time since the Jerusalem bombing. A Palestine Liberation Organisa

tion official told Reuter that Mr Ross took an Israeli negotiator, Yitzhak Molho, and the Shin Bet secret police chief, Ami Ayalon, with him to a meeting with the Palestinian leader in Ramallah this week. The meeting focused mainly on security issues.

Since the bombing, Israeli troops have sealed off territory under Mr Arafat's control. The Palestinian leader described the retaliation as a "war on the Palestinian people". claiming that Israeli officials knew the bombers came from the Lebanese Islamist organisation, Hizbullah.

Mr Netanyahu said last weekend that evidence pointed to the Palestinian group, Hamas. An Israeli soldier was killed and another wounded when Hizbullah

guerrillas ambushed a patrol in Israel's south Lebanon occupation zone last weekend. In retaliation, Israeli troops shelled Lebanese-held areas facing Kfar Houneh. Comment, page 12



Jesse Jackson marches with strikers outside United Parcel Service offices in San Francisco last Sunday. The strike, which began last week, has crippled the US puckage delivery system PROTO LAWAYNET ENTER

Hun Sen tries to win over king

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Bangkok

AMBODIA'S second prime minister, Hun Sen, arrived in Beiling on Monday to seek King Norodom Sihanouk's approval for his appointment of a first prime minister to replace the king's son, who was nusted in a coup last month.

Hun Sen, who was accompanied by the first prime ministerdesignate, Ung Huot, is hoping that the king will acquiesce in, if not bless, his choice. Meanwhile the foreign minis-

ters of Asean (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations), meeting in Singapore, appeared to edge closer to accepting Hun Sen's political arrangements, which were reinforced by a parliamentary vote last week backing Ung Huot's appointment.

treated in Beljing, promises to be a more difficult proposition. He initially appeared to give way to Hun Sen after his son, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, was ousted as first prime minister.

In comments last weekend, however, he described Ung Huot as a "puppet" and said he could not take part in "this new comedy involving the state". A statement released this week will also trouble Hun Sen: in it, the king says he is preparing to abdicate and is only waiting on the second prime minister's approval.

King Sihanouk's popularity and influence in Cambodia make his support of Ung Huot a crucial step in Hun Sen gaining recognition at home and abroad. diplomats say.

Hun Sen fears that if King Sihanouk abdicated it would be the prelude to a bid by him to step into politics.

N Korea 'faces mass hunger'

INTERNATIONAL NEWS 3

Andrew Higgins in Hong Kong

OME 85 per cent of young chil-Odren examined in an indepen-dent survey of infant malnutrition in North Korea are malnourished, and drought threatens to push the country's 24 million people towards mass starvation. Western charity workers warned this week,

"We are going to see very grim statistics as North Korea moves into winter," said Dave Toycen, head of World Vision Canada and part of a delegation that arrived in Hong Kong on Monday after visiting North Korea. "The crisis is getting ahead of us. It is getting away from us."

With foul stocks largely exhausted by two years of floods, mismanagement and the removal of a crutch once provided by the Sovjet Union, hope of relief appears to have vanished with the failure of summer rains. The resulting drought threatens to wipe out the autumn harvest and deepen a crisis that aid groups say has reached levels unseen since the famines in Ethiopia and Somalia.

Walt Santatiwat, World Vision's director for Asia, said Pyongyang's restrictions on travel, information and photography masked the severity of the calamity and created what to the outside world was an "invisible famine". Complaining of rigid controls, he said: "You can only see a small tip of the iceberg, but heneath the surface looms a tragedy that could be a hundred times

A medical team from the same charity visited five of North Korea's 12 provincial centres for orphans and other infants in state care. All but 15 per cent of children aged two or under showed some signs of malnutrition. More than half were severely or moderately malnourished, Talks aimed at setting an agenda for a peace conference on the divided Korean peninsula adjourned without an agreement. A United States

official said the negotiations would

resume next month in New York.

Hani's killers want amnesty for crime

Washington Post, page 16

Le Monde, page 20

Ruaridh Nicoll in Pretoria

SOUTH AFRICA'S Truth and Reconciliation Commission dose of 100mg, I calculate that met than 5 metric tonnes of E are tales opened one of its toughest hearings certainly industrial-scale chemistr his week to decide whether to free the men who murdered the communist leader Chris Hani in 1993, nearly wrecking the transition from

Applying for amnesty, Polish imiigrant Janusz Walus, the gunman, rightwing politician Clive Derby-Lewis, the mastermind behind the crime, told the commission they had killed the black military to prevent the Communist Party taking power. The commission, set up by President Nelson Mandela to expose apartheid-era crimes and offer forgiveness in re-turn for confession, has the power 1981, shot Hani four times outside

prove they had political motives. But the application is being memorised the number of Walus's car and alerted the police, who are Limpho, and the Communist Party, who have hired a leading barrister, killers to life in prison.

testers outside the Pretoria city hall. Many leading political figures, including Winnie Mandela, the Gauteng premier Tokyo Sexwale, and telecommunications minister Jay Naidoo, turned up to support

Hani's wife and two daughters. Hani's death on Easter Saturday 1993 hit South Africa like an earthquake during one of the hardest periods of the long negotiations that ended in free elections a year later.

Hani, the former leader in exile of eclipsed only by Mr Mandela, whom many believe Hani could have succeeded as president.

1981, shot Hani four times outside o grant amnesty if the two can his home in Boksburg, near Johannesburg. A white Afrikaner witness car and alerted the police, who are in the hearings.

The Haul family say that the two

The evidence led to Derby-Lewis. George Bizos, to return the two a former member of the all-white of Mrs Derby-Lewis, and that they

dence of a far-right conspiracy to kill South Africa's black leaders.

Walus told the hearing that he had experienced communism first-hand in Poland, and had become "seriously" worried when the apartheid government unbanned the Communist Party in 1990. He had vowed "to try and stop the handover to communist rule"

Derby-Lewis was at pains to point out his credentials as a founding member of the far-right Conserva-Umkhonto we Sizwe, the African | tive party, in an attempt to bolster National Congress's armed wing, his claim that Hani's murder was a

Mr Bizos argues that Hanl's murderers were too far out on the fringe to have a political objective. Statements made by the two men to the police after their arrest contradicted their current positions, he told the

"Racism is just wanton destruction," Mr Bizos said during a recess

"No amnesty", "Derby-Lewis must serve life", and "You are murderers" and "You derers", read placards held by proCalling all British expatriates

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Old enemies reach out across divide

Suzanne Goldenberg sees Pakistan and India

find common cause

ANZOOR Abour Reasons ancient house, or haveli, is a secret sanctuary. As the ANZOOR Abdur Rahman's call to prayer from Old Delhi's Jama Masjid mosque, the most majestic in Asia, floats over his courtyard, Mr Rahman, his tranquillity undisturbed, turns the scattered yellow pages of his teenage diaries. His wife instinctively lifts her dupatta (scarf) from her shoulders to her head.

Mr Rahman, a university administrator, started the diary in August 1947 because as a teenager he recognised he was living through historic times. His journal begins in Simla, where he was spending the summer with friends, and records his flight to a refugee camp for Muslims and his unwilling journey to Pakistan. He was not to return to his parents in Delhi until February 1948.

"I wrote this diary when I was 16 years old . . . But I was not politically aware. Sometimes I do not agree with my views," he says.

Despite the horrors of his journey — the Hindu merchants who refused to sell him milk, the flight from Simla in the dead of night, and the misery of a train journey where children pleaded for water - he clings to one central fact: "I was secular throughout."

Many of his generation were not. They emerged much changed from the experience of partition, and they handed down their fears and suspicions to their children, poisoning the atmosphere between India and Pakistan, two countries that were once part of a whole.

Until the division of British India, during which 1 million people died and as many as 15 million were uprooted from their homes, nobody would have imagined the two dominions as enemies. Mohammed Ali Jinnah, the father of Pakistan, left most of his belongings at his home in Bombay, convinced he would pop over for regular visits.

It was not to be. India and Pakistan have fought three wars since independence: the 1971 war saw the dismemberment of Pakistan and the creation of Bangladesh; the other two conflicts were over the disputed territory of Kashmir.

When the horrors of partition began to fade from living memory, the uprising in Kashmir against New Delhi's rule became a symbol for Pakistanis of Hindu oppression of the Muslims who stayed behind. Stoked by Pakistani aid to the rebels, the unrest in Kashmir has agreeing to discuss Kashmir featured regularly on government- which Pakistan considers the over-

found themselves calling for respect

of the "laws of the republic" as police

in French Guiana. The protesters

were angry that an independence



Children dressed as Indian leaders ride on a float displaying a banner of prominent freedom fighters in Bombay to mark 50 years of independence

since 1990.

And yet despite fiery political rhetoric, an arms race that saw India explode a nuclear device in its defence spending that have helped impoverish both countries, there was beneath the surface of each a deep longing for the other. In Karachi, street vendors serve

up the food of a lost continent --masala dosa, the stuffed rice pancake of the south, albeit a meat filled variation that would be seen as an abomination by its vegetarian Brahmin inventors. In India, meanwhile, people tune in to Pakistani soap operas.

Otherwise, the two peoples have been kept in mutual ignorance, divided by a rigid visa regime, and a postal service manipulated by censors and spies.

Most who do make the journey return marvelling at the warmth with which they were greeted by ordinary people — despite being trailed by intelligence agents.

In this 50th year of independence, however, there have been positive efforts for a rapprochement. In May, the Indian prime minister, IK Gujral, and the Pakistani prime minister, Nawaz Sharif, emerged wreathed in smiles from the first summit between the two countries in four years.

In June, their diplomats set an ambitious agenda for further talks,

controlled television in Pakistan | riding Issue - and other disputes, which is what India has demanded.

Mr Gujral, who was brought up in the Pakistani city of Lahore, has been sympathetic to the efforts of western desert in 1974, and levels of the fledgling peace movement to foster better relations through cultural and academic exchanges.

But there are more pressing reasons for détente. For if partition divided friends and families, it also cut off trade centres from their economic hinterlands.

At the sole border crossing be-tween Pakistan and India, porters ferry boxes of dried fruit and nuts on their heads. The goods are from Afghanistan; there is practically no legal trade between the two countries, a missed opportunity rued by businessmen on both sides of the

Recently, traders in Amritaar seek out the good people, not the people who kill. It is these people only 30km from the crossing in Punab, formed an association to press or trade with Pakistan.

"For the first time, there is i Pakistan a social force behind the peace process. Previously only radical leftists or so-called peaceniks were ahouting about things. Now the industrialists and the capitalists want peace," Mr Rehman says. "The fact of the matter is Kashmir has

gone off the agenda."
But not entirely. When Pakistan's commerce minister last month exounded on the benefits of trade with India, the Urdu-language press reacted with outrage.

In India, too, there have been reversals. The film industry, once the problems created by partition."

Cuba accuse Miami exilesi bomb attack

Ed Vulliamy in Washington

THE exiled Cuban comme in the United States well' week trying to explain this bomb attack in Havanginka than a month.

In the Cuban capital them nunist regime laid blant late combs on "terrorists with [territory". Last week's homes ploded in the lobby of the far star, Spanish-owned Hotel Cohibs, shattering glass be causing no injuries. Twodis on July 12, at the Nacional Capri hotels, caused minore age and wounded three popt.
The Cuban government in been quick to blame existing

US, and in particular the right wing based in Miami. A US state departmentalia, said that "no evidence" had y been offered the US. The der ment has said: "The US wie clearly does not condone this kind of activity in Cubsors

where else." Watching the falloutwo E Gutiérrez Menoyo, who hop with Fidel Castro, was impri oned by his regime for 22 p.r. and now leads the swelling. dle-way democratic movement. Cambio Cubano (Cuban Change), from Miami.

Reviled by both the comm nists and the hard right, Mr Gutiérrez Menoyo said: "It. was dynamite, the bombs mi have come from Cuba, But by are not, and nor could then mote-control detonstors-to have to come from outside.

He said the bombs had the "clear intention" of affecting tourism, the country's priso source of revenue, and west message to the Cuban subti ties. "It's a way of saying we can stop us'."

He said the bombs well alienate exiled Cubans, side "I'm confident we're estate last phase of confrontation, fore the dialogue." Meanwhile the leader of

rightwing paramiliary of the tion Alpha 66, based in the took indirect responsibility the explosions, saying better work of sympathism bit "We have always advot

olence to bring change in (*) Andres Nazario Sarges and "We haven't sent any look politicians and bureaucrats. This can what we have sent is worth

solve all our economic and social The 200,000 Mohelk

the possibility of reimbursing individuals and countries is to be held in London in December. the UK Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, announced.

A N international conference to analyse information on looted Nazi gold and examine

The Week

SOME 20 Amerindians in the Brazillan state of Mato Grosso do Sul who were thought to have killed themselves in despair at the encroachment of the modern world may have been murdered for their land, according to a report handed to the president.

TWO policemen and a civilian died in clashes in Kenya during a one-day national strike to press for constitutional reforms before the elections due later this year.

TWO Russian cosmonauts with a cargo of fresh food, a puncture outfit and letters from Earth docked successfully with the troubled Mir space station on the first stage of a repair mission to save the project.

SOUTH Africa's Dutch Reformed Church, long the main moral backer of apartheid, has produced an 82-page apology for its stance during National party rule.

AT least 20 people died and 40 were injured when two buses crashed head on in northern Peru, police said.

WO German army conscripts shouting Nazi slogans set fire to a hostel for foreigners in Dresden. There were no casualties.

BILL CLINTON became the first US president to kill specific provisions in a piece of egislation, wielding a prerogative sought by occupants of the White House since 1876 to curb rasteful spending.

RAN'S new president, Mohammed Khatami, has appointed a woman as a vice-president, according to reports. If the appointment is confirmed, lassoumeh Ebtekar will be the first woman to serve in a highranking government post since the 1979 Islamic revolution.

HREE IRA prisoners who escaped in the 1988 mass reakout from the Maze prison in Northern Ireland lost the latest round of their fight against extradition from the US.

CUADOR is promoting a new immigration law for the Galapagos Islands to protect the delicate ecosystem that inspired Darwin's theory of evolution.

THE Australian navy is to post women aboard its submarines for the first time. More han 80 women will begin ahorebased training by January.

Finger pointed at Guam crash pilot

Joanna Coles in New York

ILOT error was suggested last week as the cause of the plane crash in Guam which killed 225 people. Twenty-nine peo-ple survived. Preliminary evidence from the recovered "black box", which contains the cockpit voice recorder, indicated that there were no mechanical problems and that the pilot was not aware of any difficulties as he approached Guam airport. Korean Air Flight 801 crashed in the jungle several miles short of

George Black of the United States National Transportation

crash showed that he did not suspect any problems.

gency they would have been having some discussion and there is none of that," he said. "If there was a problem they were not aware of it." He stopped short of confirming media reports which blamed the

became more apparent.

tragedy," he said.

"If they were having some emer should be talking to. Contributing to the confusion, the

Meanwhile the tension between the US safety board investigating the crash and Korean Air officials

Peter Goelz, an NTSB official, criticised the airline, saying it had

He added that there had been confusion at the airline about who was responsible for dealing with the disaster, and his officials had had problems finding out whom they

US television network NBC quoted unnamed sources as saying the pi-lots had picked up the wrong radio signal, mistakenly believing that a signal from a nearby hill belonged to the runway.

A spokesman for Korean Air denied this, saying the airline could Safety Board (NTSB) said in Guam | had no contingency plans in case of | not yet rule out a "change in altitude |

that the lack of communication from a crash. "They had absolutely no the pilot in the minutes before the idea how to respond to this mentioned the breakdown of the glide slope, an airport instrument used to guide aircraft during night lights, which was out of service at the time of the accident.

American investigators have said the glide slope was probably irrele-

Survivors have given conflicting accounts of the first indications that the plane was in trouble. Some said it crashed without warning, others that there had been a terrible juddering and shaking before the aircraft hit the trees. The fuselage was broken into four sections and bodies were scattered across the moun-

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FRIE AND PRINCIPAL PLACE OF BURDARDS DIRECTION STREET, DOUGLAS, SIE OF NAN INI ITA REDISTERED IN THE SILE OF MANINO 15-222 IC WITH SHARE CAPITAL, AND PRESENTES BI PROCESS OF CIDIL NALLON RECOGNISTION FOR BANKING BURDARDS, STREET, DOUGLAS, SIE OF NAN INI ITA REDISTERED WITH THE SILE OF MANINCIPAL PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PRESENTED BY AN INITIAL PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PRESENT BY AND ANNIALLY, SEPARATE NATES AND OF NASH ON THE RESIDENCE OF THE PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PROCESS OF THE PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PROCESS OF THE PROCESS OF CONTROL AND PROCESS OF THE PROCESS OF THE

Protesters shake up French empire detention, accused of assaulting a | between the government of Co- | France, most latterly as a launch Alex Duval Smith in Paris policeman during riots in April.

RENCH foreign ministry officials were last week wishing they could redraw the world map, as protesters in French Guiana renewed calls for independence at the same time as a second Indian Ocean island asked to be recolonised. In Paris — which, since the han-

dover of Hong Kong, administers Last week they issued the same Europe's largest empire — officials formula after the neighbouring island of Anjouan declared itself "officially re-attached to France", 22 and independence activists clashed years after joining the republic.

But in response to the raising of and Anjouan. tricolore flags on the Indian Ocean "We rejoice that the OAU has deisland of Mohéli -- which is part of cided to appoint a special envoy to the Comoros -- the foreign minthe Comoros . . . in order to help istry repeated its statement that this country find a lasting solution "France respects the territorial to the crisis born from the situation integrity of the Islamic Federal on the island of Anjouan," a foreign Republic of the Comoros". ministry spokesman said.

At odds, both in French Gujana - a South American former prison colony — and in the two Comoros islands, is money.

Guiana, whose 150,000 popula-

French — free education, subsidised health care and a minimum rage. After 320 years serving moros and secessionists on Moheli pad for Ariane rockets, it wants out.

champion of unity between Hindus

and Muslims, has lately wavered in

its commitment. Border, this year's

top-grossing film, glorifies Indian soldiers in a 1971 battle. Main-

"There is no criticism of the basic

ingoism in Border, which is against

the policy of the Gujral government

for rapprochement with Pakistan,"

Subadhra Joshi, a frail woman in

her eighties, has spent a lifetime try-

ing to purge those emotions. Her

committee to combat communalism

has been preaching tolerance for 50

years. As a Gandhian activist, she vis-

partition, clinging to the arms of men attacking Muslim neighbours.

part of India, people give us a ring or send us a telegram," she says. "We

who keep the minority here - not

One of those unknowns is

Ambadas Triwari, a merchant from

Kutch, on the western fringes of

India, who has been trying to pro-

mote exchanges of folk musicians

and artists. Last month, after a

decade of discreet lobbying, he at last won permission to bring a Paki-

stani folk troupe to India. "I am

hopeful that in the next five years we

will come together and the people of

our two nations will put pressure on

the police or the military."

"Wherever there is trouble in any

ted the riot-afflicted areas of Delhi at

says a film critic, Igbal Masud.

stream India loved it.

State radio said independence demonstrators in Guiana had tried to set fire to the town's central police | French after 1975. station and electricity was cut in some areas. There were no immediate reports of injuries as paramilitary riot police used tear gas to disperse several hundred demonstrators

The people of Mohéli and Anjouan voted for independence from France in 1975 and became part of an Islamic that has since seen 17 coups. The secessionists claim that the main its current and forms There was, nevertheless, some tion makes it France's biggest secessionists claim that the main is relief in Paris after the Organisation département, benefits from all social land, Grande Comore, has been cutting the umblical contraction. leader had been placed in pre-trial of African Unity offered to mediate advantages that come with being favoured over Mohéli and Anjouan. dered," wrote Libération

Anjouanais, who barely sour ylang-ylang, have begun their coral islands on miles rafts in the hope of landing the The secessionist sent

Comoros comes as France nalled its desire to scale post-colonial presence in the defence minister, Alain Ma cently said France would troops in Africa by at least Observers said it den

"The utopia that consists

OME and shake the hand of the man with a plan," boomed the megaphoned voice of Malik Shabas of the Black Law Students Association through the muggy sauna of a Washington morning. "Marion S Barry, the next mayor of Washington DC! This is gonna be the greatest victory since Mohammed Ali beat Sonny Liston! Bring the Prodigal Son back to power!"

It was only 7am, but already hot, and I pointed to a dispensing machine and asked Barry whether he would care for a Coke. He was quick to get in first: "Why thank you kindly. A Coca-Cola would do just fine. Diet."

This vignette dates from 1994, when Barry's name was still synonymous with an epic piece of FBI videotape. The Mayor of Washington had been caught on camera by the agency four years previously, taking two deep draws from a pipeful of crack cocaine in the company of one of his favourite courtesan girlfriends.

After the disgrace came the recovery. To the astonishment of friend and foe alike, Barry bounced back, putting himself forward for re-election as "a second-chance man" who would champion the cause of "a secondchance people in a second-chance city". A breathtaking plan, but it worked. Barry, prison convert to devout Christianity, surrounded by serious young men with Islamicised names, won back the title of Mayor of Washington DC remarkably easily.

He inherited not just the capital of the socalled free world, but also the world's murder capital, with crack cocaine associated with most of the slaughter. A city built on a swamp and based on the principles of urban geography not dissimilar from the racial segregation of South Africa circa 1950.

When Barry emerged from prison wearing a fez and carrying a Bible, he promised "redemption" for what he called the African-Americans of the city. Last week, however, his plan appeared to have been destroyed yet again. On an unseasonally temperate and glo-rious summer afternoon, President Clinton, surrounded by white faces on the White House lawn, put his signature to a piece of legislation that effectively strips Mayor Barry of most of his powers. Clinton gave effective authority over most of the city's important agencies to a non-elected Financial Control Board headed by an equally non-elected chairman, Andrew Rimmer. White Washington had sacked black Washington from the manage-

As everybody knows, and some admit, there are two Washingtons, epitomised by the great white dome of Congress, which rises from among the poor black homesteads of Capitol Street. One Washington is that which Congress champions as the nation's representative body. The other is that of which Barry was champion - albeit in name only - of poor sharecroppers who came up from the Deep South and who now clean and scrub and drive and waitress and drill the roads. One is white, the other is black.

Washington DC and Congress have been snapping at each other for some time. DC, despite its tiny population, launches periodical claims to become the 51st state of the union, while Congress despairs at the disappearing grant fund routine at which DC is so expert.

The bitterness between Barry and Congress was best exemplified by a hushed-up spat in which Barry's local authority refused to pay for the cost of disposing of sewage flushed from within the "Federal Triangle" of government office buildings in the city centre. Federal government waste - of the human variety --- was making its way into the river water systems where it had to be treated at local expense, prompting several jokes

You don't have to look far for an explanation for last week's move against Mayor Barry. Under his administration, Washington DC had acquired the dubious distinction of being America's worst-run metropolis.

It has the highest education spending per capita in the United States, but comes bottom of the academic achievement league every year. Per capita, it has more employees than any other US city. One in eight adults living in the city is a public employee, and of those one in eight again is a time-keeper keeping watch

The services this workforce provides are indubitably the worst in America. The streets are pot-holed; rubbish collection, especially in the poorer areas, is at best erratic, the bureaucracy is stultifying. Recently Barry announced that the city could no longer afford its recycling service for glass and paper — a stan-

dard in every other US metropolis. So dire has the city's byzantine inefficiency become that Barry has seen his solid black vote within the ghetto simply crumble. In the past two weeks the streets of the capital have been full of black youths collecting signatures and wearing T-shirts bearing the words "Mayor Barry must resign". Ironically, it was the mass black revolt against Barry that

prompted Congress, at last, to act.
This is all a far cry from Barry's first land-



slide victory, back in 1978. He had lived in | The public doesn't fit in that picture Washington only 10 years before his initial appointment as mayor. Barry is the son of Mississippi sharecropper raised in Memphis, and activists remember him as being one of the loudest voices on the desegregation marches in Tennessee.

He came to Washington as a chemistry graduate, skilled politician and civil rights ac vocate. During the years after the assassina tion of Martin Luther King, Barry's star rose by blending an ingenious mix of sixties black power with black capitalist self-help.

HE BLACK middle class, however, was the one group whose electoral support eluded him when he won his 1978 landslide victory, though he was endorsed, strangely, by the very white Washington Post. He was heralded as "Mayor for Life".

The years that followed were years of boom building downtown, contrasted by depopulation across the rest of the swamp. It was a recipe for corruption and disaster. In 1950, there were 800,000 people in DC; by last year numbers had fallen to 543,000, as the city gov ernment became rotten to the core.

The explanation was simple: patronage avouritism and tin-pot masonry, jobs for the boys. "DC government," funed the Chief Financial Officer, almost in tears, "has retrenched by focusing on its loyal base: its employees and a few favoured contractors.

Last week's Congress decree has sturt had never heard of — the Baha'is. like a thunderbolt. The non-elected board be | Rick Miller, the sect's representative taken over all the city's main functions for, in Jerusalem, said he found nothing and emergency medical services, publicworks, administration, housing and person

nel. The deal will last for at least four years.
The reaction among the DC mafia has been Military review causes unease to blend crocodile tears with threats and the language of puerile melodrama. Maybe same Jonathan Watts in Tokyo of the tears were genuine. After all, the gar, train seems to have reached its terminus. TOKYO and Washington face an

There was a demonstration at the Whit: | uphill battle to win domestic and House during the signing of the decree % regional support for a planned revidemocracy, no peace," Barry's gang of so, son of bilateral security guidelines porters shouted. "Democracy has been that would give Japan its most raped," furned Barry. "And we intend to be prominent military role since the something about the perpetrators." Then the first meeting of the Financial to

The two countries are engaged in

trol Board last week had to be cancelled at a flurry of diplomatic and political trol Board last week had to be cancer up by activity to soothe fears that the the police called, after it was broken up by changes to the guidelines, which

lacard-waving demonstrators.

The woman leading the disruption is are expected to be completed by au-The woman leading the distributed by au-Eleanor Holmes Norton, the city's black application, might run counter to Japan's eleanor Holmes Norton, the city's many partition and counter to Japan's voting delegate to Congress. Significantly of partition and mark a had at first welcomed the congression resurgence of militarism.

President Clinton and the Japan-takeover as "a big win for DC". Now, just is the president Clinton and the Japantakeover as "a big win for DC". Now, just a class takeover as "a big win for DC". Now, just a class takeover as "a big win for DC". Now, just a class takeover as "a big win for DC". Now, just a class to prime minister. Ryutaro about "ahameful, outrageous, anti-demontial like historial minister." Ryutaro about "ahameful, outrageous, anti-demontial like historial minister. Ryutaro about "ahameful, outrageous, anti-demontial like historial minister. Ryutaro about "ahameful, outrageous, anti-demontial like historial minister." Ryutaro about "ahameful, outrageous, anti-demontial mi the bilateral security pact forms the

HARDIAN WEEKLY

GUARDIAN WEB

INTERNATIONAL NEWS 7

Israeli bomb victim disowned in death

Julian Borger in Jerusalem

RISHA PESAHOVIC was RISHA PESAHUVIC was burled as he had lived for two unhappy years in Israel

as an outsider. He was a shy, 15-year-old Russian nigrant who had been struggling to fit in. Last month he was on his own as usual, wandering through crowds of shoppers in Jerusalem's main Jewish market at the moment two suicide bombers chose to strike,

Grisha was killed because he lived among Jews in the divided city, but in death he was disowned. His corpse was turned away from a Jewish cemetery because Grisha's mother was not a Jew. It was taken to a nearby Greek Orthodox church but priests there would not bury him without Christian prayers.

For four days, Grisha's parents were unable to bury their son. At one moment of desperate grief in the Orthodox graveyard, his father, Nevgeny, cried: "Give me a spade and a plot of land, and let me bury him alone. I don't care where."

The boy was finally put to rest in a remote corner of the Mount of Olives in a small plot tended by desitees of a faith the Pesahovic's

in Baha'i teaching that would prevent Grisha's burial. The creed encourages spiritual unity and the tion, but although he was a good student, he had not mastered Hebrew and did not mix with the courages spiritual unity and the "advancement of civilisation".

This miserable post-script to the erusalem market bombing has caused uproar in Israel. The prime minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, visited Grisha's parents last week to pay his condolences, and Yuli Edelstein, the minister for the absorption of new immigrants, called for a change

in the law to allow secular burials. The Pesahovics were like tens of thousands of new immigrants to Israel who considered themselves Wolff, "That's when the whole thing Jewish, were discriminated against as Jews in their homelands, and who were granted Israeli citizenship on the grounds of having a Jewish grandparent. But in Israel, they

cluded because the rabbinical definition of who is a Jew is far stricter. "It's OK for them to come to Israel, to go to fight in the army and to die, but it's not okay to bury them," complained Zamira Segev, the head of a secular pressure

have since found themselves ex-

Grisha had arrived in Israel from Yekaterinburg two years ago with nis mother, Olga. His parents were divorced and his father came later. Grisha was plunged into Hebrew native Israelis around him.

When it became clear Grisha could not be buried as a Jew, Israeli civil servants told his parents it was possible to arrange a non-denominational burial in the Greek Orthodox cemetery, but it appears no one told

graveyard, and the priest said 'we'll bring it Into church', which I

became clear. The parents said we're not Christians'. The priest was kind and understanding but said it was a Christian graveyard."

Olga broke down and cried: "He lived as a Jew in the land of Israel . . I am not ready to let him be burled as a Christian." There were not enough mourn-

ers to carry the coffin back out of the cemetery, so the help of police-"We carried the coffin into the men and local taxi drivers was enlisted. Grisha's body was returned thought was odd," recalled Rabbi duration of the Sabbath.

When he heard the slory, Mr

Edelstein, a Russian immigrant him-self, rushed to the scene and started calling around on his mobile phone n search of alternatives. "Imagine how a minister of the state of Israel must feel when he has to sit in his car in a parking lot, while the corpse of a terror victim is being held in the hospital, and you have to find someone who'll do you a favour and bury the body," he said.

When Grisha's coffin was finally lowered into the ground in a quiet ceremony, Rabbi Wolff said the prayers and Khanania Shakhor. from the Jewish Burial Society, gave a final oration. Looking into the open grave, Mr Shakhor said: "In the name of all those involved in your funeral, please forgive us."

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Spies enter dogfight on arms sales to Korea

James Meek

THE prospect of United States troops in South Korea relying on new Russian rockets to defend themselves against old Russian rockets fired from North Korea is growing as the Russian secret services join the contract from the US firm Raytheon.

Seoul is due to announce next month which missile it will buy to improve its air defences against the threat of North Korean rocket attack — Raythcon's Patriot, or the Russian S300V. The long-range rockets held by a faminestricken North, based on the old Russian Scud, can bit the South Korean capital three minutes after launch.

North Korea has also developed an indigenous rocket, the longer-range Rodong.

The Russian manufacturers claim their missile can shoot down enemy rockets traveiling twice as fast, twice as far away as the Patriot, and then destroy the pieces the rockets break into as

The seriousness of the comnetitive challenge to arms mer-France posed by Russia's reenergised weapons exporters was underlined again last week when the Indonesian government, piqued by US criticism of its human rights record, announced it was buying 12 advanced Russian Su-30K fighter aircraft and eight Russian helicopters instead of the US F-16s

t ĥad planned to acquire. Malaysia has already bought Russian fighters. Last month Greece became the first Nato member to shortlist a Russian aircraft as a contender to reequip its air force.

Winning the \$1 billion Korean contract in the face of

enormous US pressure to buy American would be a triumph for the Russians and an endorse ment of their claims to technical superiority. Evidence of Russian secret

service involvement came in a recent article in the Moscow newspaper Nezavisimava Gazeta, which quoted from confidential internal company documents setting out Raytheon's strategy for countering the Russian sales pitch. The cover page of one document reproduced in the paper read: "Company Private — Competition Sensitive -

Proprietary Data." The article claimed Raytheor was offering to sell the Patriot system to South Korea for only 5 per cent of its real value, with the US government making up the difference in exchange for

"multi-layered defence" for 37,000 US troops in the

It also alleged that Raytheon had promised the South Korean authorities a \$65 million comnission if the Patriot deal went Asked about the source of this

last allegation, the author of the article, the journalist Igor Korotchenko, told the Guardian The Russian secret services." Speaking from the US,

Raytheon's spokesman, Bob McWade, said he could not comment on the authenticity of the documents without having seen them and would need time to respond to specific allega-

"Obviously it would be a serious matter if these were really confidential, private documents," he said. "There will always be people and parties ooking to engage in intrigue and looking to discredit the world's only proven tactical missile defence system."

US bases in South Korsa har agency measures in the event of a soviet strack on Japan.

An interim report released in these cover only a small part of the cover only

So concerned is the US at a ress where Tokyo would co-oper possibility of a Russian sale of the defence secretary, William the defence secretary the defence secretary the defence secretary the defence secretary the de Russian missiles might home lapan would also help to evacuate chizens from overseas, play a

The effectiveness of Pariot fired against Iraqi Scuda duri the Gulf war is fiercely disputed.
Raytheon claims "70 per cent

cost of its missiles; nothing all. Moscow is offering to stitle S300V to Seoul in experior writing off its old debis South Korea. South Korea

second world war.

cornerstone of Washington's de-

ence policy in Asia, the guidelines, at updated in 1978, only detail con-

ger role in intelligence gathering conduct minesweeping outside Own waters if requested. The

aid this would violate article militarism.

The Social Democratic Party (SDP), on whose support Mr Hashimoto depends, has voiced fears. A party spokesman said: "We will not make a decision until the re-

nine of the constitution, which re-

nounces "the threat or use of war to

settle international disputes".

view is completed, but our priority is to defend the constitution, and there are areas in the interim report that are of concern to us." The ruling Liberal Democratic

Party (LDP) will submit a bill during the next Diet session to make the required legal changes, according to a senior party official, Taku Yamasaki. The aim, he said would be to allow "security emergencies in and around Japan to be treated alike".

He accepted that the SDP might oppose such a bill, but suggested the government could probably pass the legislation with support from the main conservative opposi-Also watching the situation

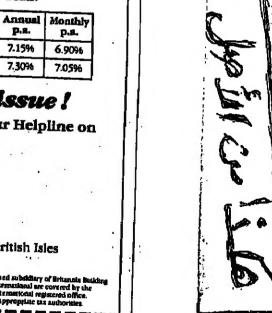
closely are Japan's neighbours, notably South Korea and China. As well as sensitivity toward any sign of renewed Japanese militarism, these two nations fear that the draft revision could apply to their own territorial disputes with Tokyo and other Asian nations.

The US and Japan have sent emissaries to Seoul and Beijing to sure them that the revision primarily aimed at responding to a crisis triggered by North Korea. "China remains concerned that

the target of the guideline revision

the Gulf war is fiercely dispute the Gulf war is fiercely dispute the Raytheon claims "70 per cell itelased until November.

98 Scuds launched by Iran to military role, albeit a non-destroyed. The US is now in the projected expansion of improve the Patriot using the most contentious secretly acquired Scuds for secretly acquired Scuds fo ammunition to the US in an wanted to ensure the guideline revi-Rency. Several commentators | wanted to ensure the grant side would not encourage Japanese



dying before they reach retirem-

age than at any time since the w

conclusion reached by Dr Dai:

Dorling, of Bristol university, in

study of regional differences

People living in the worst place

such as Glasgow, Manches,

Birmingham and urban 64-

organshire, are now twice as list.

to die before retirement than the

who live in the best places, such,

the small towns of Kent, San.

Middlesex, Hertfordshin a:

The figures mean that Britis

extremely unlikely to reach &

target set by the World Hea

Organisation to reduce health:

equalities by 25 per cent by 200

THE ARMY moved with that to suspend an officer was t

Fabian Society pamphlet and ac-

cle in the Guardian, accused t

armed forces of an "obsession

social class". Major Eric Joyo.

36, was accused of break.

Queen's Regulations by not set.

permission for his article, and a

also barred from speaking lo

press pending the outcome of a c

Commenting on the arms

ruitment problems, Major Jos

himself the product of a Tage

comprehensive school, wrote

the service was still bound by the

institutional and cultural none

the 19th century. It had good job. offer capable young people.

they were jobs in a working or

ment that was steeped in 6:

tions based on class, gentle

Birmingham and Bristol bi 🖫

in many other parts of the co-

Austin

ciplinary inquiry.

IANA, Princess of Wales, was reintroduced to the minefield of her personal life after leaving Bosnia, a country where charities struggle to raise £700 for a pair of artificial limbs, and returning to a world whose media paid more than £700,000 - plus £300,000 in promotional advertising at the weekend alone — to buy paparazzi shots allegedly showing her canoodling with Dodi Fayed, son of the Harrods owner Mohamed Al Faved.

This money is enough to buy 1,440 sets of limbs, sufficient numbers to help all the Bosnian children and adults likely, on present trends, to be crippled by their country's 1 million uncleared mines over the next 28 months.

Ken Rutherford, a mine victim and campaigner, dismissed the media frenzy as "the periphery" of her successful visit.

He was with her at a farewell lunch at a restaurant in the hills overlooking Sarajevo. At the lunch, "she never showed any sign of being upset about the publicity over her private life", he said. "She accepted it, she is used to it."

He added gratefully as she left: "it's a shame people are worrying about such trivial matters."

But in London the argument was over the Daily Mirror newspaper's zeal last Saturday in allegedly altering the angle of Mr Fayed's head in one fuzzy picture to suggest that he was kissing the princess.



Minefield victim Mirzeta Gabelic, on crutches, accompanies Diana, Princess of Wales, in Sarajevo

This was to pre-empt its sister paper the Sunday Mirror, which paid £250,000 for first rights to pub-lish 16 of the shots.

In Sarajevo, meeting maimed victims and their families, the princess was exposed to the horrific suffering and devastation endured by the

Followed by a 100-strong media pack, she descended on bewildered people ignorant of the identity of the VIP visitor. "What's all the hassle?" a child asked his friend as the narrow street was brought to a

standstill "Some Diana is moving in." the

friend replied, not recognising her.

ingly touted, is that the Church should organise a divorce of its own, by parting from the State through disestablishment. Perhaps that was the crisis Dr Carey had in mind.

GROWING DEMANDS for his resignation forced Lord Simon, appointed in May as Minister for Trade and Competitiveness in Europe, to sell his £2.3 million share-holding in BP, of which he was formerly chairman. For good measure, he also said that charities would share the £300,000 profits he

In the face of heavy criticism by the Tories and the press, Lord Simon had tried toughing it out, saying he should keep the shares until the end of the year so as to avoid dealing in them while he had inside information on BP's recent performance. He was backed by the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, who accused

smear tactics. Lord Simon later admitted that he had perhaps been unwise to think that, because his shareholding was a matter of public record, he was entitled to hang on to it. Such naivety could be explained by his parallel belief that he could hold ministerial office without entering the world of party politics".

The Week in Britain James Lewis

Carey warns of 'crisis' if Charles opts to remarry

THE ARCHBISHOP of Canter- WHERE people live in inone to be accused of news management, informed a surprised press conference in Australia that if Prince Charles were to remarry it would 'create a crisis for the Church".

This was taken in some quarters as a threat to provoke a constitutional impasse if the prince should wed Camilla Parker Bowles and, on becoming king and head of the Established Church, find himself having to defend its teachings, including those that condemn livorce and remarriage.

But the prince has said that h has no intention of remarrying; nor is there any likelihood of his becoming king in the near future. It is also on record that he has no great enthusiasm for becoming "defender of the faith" and that, in a multicultural Britain, he would rather be a "defender of faiths".

Recently, Prince Charles did in deed give a higher profile to his relationship with the divorced Mrs Parker Bowles when he threw a highly publicised birthday party for her. This was widely interpreted as preparing the public for wedding bells and a future Queen Camilla.

The archbishop's staff, however, denied that Dr Carey was reacting o this possibility. He was, they insisted, doing no more than restating the Church's stance on divorce and remarriage in reply to a chance press conference question.

Perhaps he was worrying aloud about a possibility that is as much - if not more -- of a problem for the Church than it is for Prince Charles. Although an Anglican bishop was recently remarried to a divorced woman, and remains a bishop, three out of four Anglican priests are opposed to the churchsanctioned remarriage of Prince

REAKISH weather dist when the Midlands, London et Southeast recorded the holes of the year while the West (was hit by torrential downpuss Comment, page 12 floods. Temperatures is la

had accrued on the shares since his

MPs urge rethink on drugs

and David Ward

ONY BLAIR was last week under growing pressure from Labour MPs to consider decriminalising drugs to combat reliable guide to their chances; crime, in the wake of last week's shooting of Dillon Hull, aged five (see story, right).
Brian Iddon, Labour MP for ond world war. This was the direct

Rolton South-East - the town where the boy was shot and killed in a suspected drugs-linked attack called for a royal commission to examine the issue, and sald the public was entitled to "an honest and straightforward" debate.

A Labour party spokesman stressed that it remained opposed to legalisation, and that there was no wason to change this long-held position. He conceded that certain adividual MPs", such as the veteas backbencher Paul Flynn the again called last weekend for Government to consider deriminalising drugs — held differ-

But, in what could be the first significant rebellion by backbenchers labour MPs shared his view that | debate about decriminalisation."

the time was right for a review.

The Government had "backed off" tackling the issue of decriminalthe Government to change its position, he said.

"I know this is a very sensitive subject within the party," he said. "But now the election is out of the way there are many new MPs who, like myself, feel the time is right for

Labour pledged in its election manifesto to tackle the drugs problem by appointing a United States-style "drugs tsar" to direct the Government's anti-drugs drive, together with provisions in its new Crime and Disorder Bill for manda tory treatment of drug-offending burglars. But last week an American expert warned that the tsar had failed in the US. Professor Arnold Trebach, president of the Washington-based independent Drug Policy Foundation, said: "Our drugs tsar is like British royalty — honoured but

with no power."
Last Sunday Mr Iddon told BBC Radio: "I believe very strongly that the public has to have a debate about drugs. In fact, I'd go so far as to say we need a royal commission on since Mr Blair's election victory, Mr | drugs. We need to hear the evilidon said a "large group" of new | dence, we need to get into the whole

ising drugs, he said. "Clare Short mentioned the word decriminalisation and got into hot water for doing so" he said. "But there are a number of people on the Labour benches now who want an honest open dis-

cussion about the drug problem." The issue is highly sensitive and only the Liberal Democrats have so far called for a royal commission.

Last week Nigel Evans, a shadow cabinet spokesman and co-chairman of the all-party drugs misuse group, said that setting up a royal commission was tantamount to "cudorsing" drugs. Last Sunday be wrote to the Prime Minister, urging him to ignore pleas for a change in the Government's policy. To open the door to the possibility of a lax attitude towards the drugs menace in our society would send the wrong signals to young people," he wrote. Almost everyone attending rave or club dance event has tried illegal drugs, according to a survey by the drugs advice agency Release. The report indicates that drug-taking is an accepted part of

dance culture.

UK NEWS 9 Five-year-old killed in shooting

Quardian reporters

A BOY aged five was shot dead and his stepfather seriously injured last week when a gunman opened fire in a street in Bolton. near Manchester. The shooting is believed to be drugs-related

The man leading the hunt for the killer, Detective Superintendent Peter Ellis, sald: "It is very. very difficult to describe anybody who is prepared to shoot fatally a five-year-old boy. It is a tragic loss of life. There is a line of inquiry which could suggest that the killing may surround drug activity."

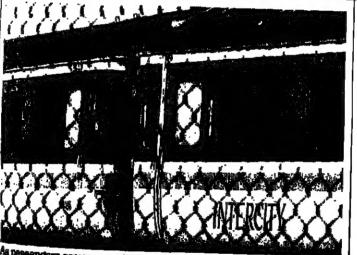
John Bates, aged 28, and his stepson Dillon were attacked by a gunnian wearing a motorcycle helinet as they walked near their home in the Deane area of Bolton. The gunman fired three imes and fled down an alleyway.

A post-mortem indicated that the child was killed by a single shot. Mr Bates was shot in the stomach. He was discharged from hospital two days later and returned to his home in Bolton with Jane Hull, the child's nother, under police guard. DS Ellis said increased security

Dillon Hull: shooting is believed to have been drugs-related

"as long as necessary". A gun-man had fired two bullets into the nouse as Mr Bates and Dillon watched television on the eve of the fatal shooting.

According to the boy's grandfather, Dillon had a younger brother, Codie, who was born last month addicted to heroin. His mother is a registered heroin addict. The baby is still in hospital while doctors try to wean him off the drug. Two years ago, Mr Bates was jailed for 21 months for dealing in heroin.



ngers squeeze on to crowded trains, more than 700 carriages all like at an army base. Operators say they are too expe

Privatised rail service is 'unreliable and overcrowded'

Sunday and reached the high. Keith Herper

But parts of Devon and (co. AR too many trains are late, unexperienced flash floods, male reliable and overcrowded, and people were forced to flet in made and produced the people were forced to fler in people were forced to fler in magic wand to cure the industry's site at Honiton, Devon, when it is, the rail passenger watchdog group Opraf concluded last week in

THEY'VE SACKED THE LITTLE Central Rail Users' Consultative Committee, said passengers want tonsistency and improvement" bulay, not at some time in the future, and until we see that, I don't see any move towards a feel-good

factor on the railways". The report says that passengers the report says that passengers sall have to put up with too many concellations, service fallures and satching to ensure that new passenger that new passenger that new passenger that he had been serviced by the British Rail had operated.

The Bertram said the majority of sengers, mainly commuters had

many details such as catering, the right type of rolling stock, or accu-

The report reveals a North-South divide on passengers' complaints to the committee, While the number of complaints overall, including the North, fell for the first time in 15 is report covering the first year years, in the Southeast they rose by since the industry was removed 49 per cent — and those for security

The secretary, Mike Patterson, said overcrowding was the main cause of the "huge increase" in complaints from the London area. This was mainly due to the reduction in the length of some commuter trains.

Mr Bertram agreed that com-

plaints from London commuters had "impacted negatively on the general public perception of the railway scene".

Although passenger numbers have increased by 8 per cent, Mr. Bertram said they would not see any new trains for at least a year. While the level of expectations had Sengers, mainly commuters, had long way to go" for the 25 train oper been raised, there was still "a very The little change. For many, their ating companies. Passengers had seen nothing yet.



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Thalidomide effects 'can | Cook's wife jump generation barrier'

15 years.

Peter Hetherington

THE Government this week promised to examine new research into the Thalidomide drug which may suggest the disfiguring effects of the sedative can be inherited.

As an action group claimed that the drug has jumped the generation barrier, the Department of Health said it would look carefully at any new evidence which, it is claimed, shows that Thalidomide affects human DNA.

In 1961, the drug was found to cause birth defects when taken by pregnant women. .hildren were born without limbs, or with only partial limbs, and many suffered damage to internal organs.

So far 11 of the 380 children born to Thalidomide victims in Britain have been found to have congenital limb defects — at least five times the average rate

Victims, convinced their defects have been passed to the next generation, this week called for meetings with ministers and the brewing giant Guinness which bought Distillers, the company that marketed the drug in Britain -- to press for more compensation. Distillers paid victims £33 million, or lump sums for individuals of up to

£30,000. But with trust funds under pressure, Guinness last year announced it would donate £2.5 million a year for the next

The Thalidomide Action Group released the results of the new research at a news conference in Liverpool. The study was carried out in

Australia by William McBride, who first warned the world about Thalldomide 30 years ago, and nolecular pathologist Peter Huang. Their research on rats suggests that Thalidomide alters DNA in egg and sperm cells.

If the effects are proved, it would make Thelidomide the first drug to jump the generation barrier. But critics say the second-generation deformities probably have other causes.

They argue that Dr McBride is discredited after falsifying the results of another drug suspected of being dangerous in 1982, as a result of which he was struck off the Australian

medical register. About 2,000 victims are still alive in Germany today and 458 in Britain. But despite its legacy, drug companies are pressing for Thalidomide to be re-licensed. Research has shown it may help to treat a range of diseases, from Aids to arthritis.

blames Tories

MARGARET COOK, wife of the Foreign Secretary, Robin Cook, has blamed Tory cuts to the National Health Service for the much-publicised breakdown of their

from spending more time with her

husband in London.

Mrs Cook commented: "Probably I should have spent more time in London with my husband. In practice, however, this has hardly been possible over the past five years | Lord Simon's critics of adopting because of the demands of my

cies imposed on the health service by the last government have prevented rational approaches to staffing, and many consultants, myself included, have carried excessive workloads with little hope of

Mrs Cook, a consultant haematologist — a blood specialist — at St John's hospital in Livingston, Lothian, claimed in an interview with the Sunday Times last weekend that her workload and "the demands of her profession" had prevented her

Earlier this month, 51-year-old Mr Cook made a statement announcing the 28-year marriage government appointment on May 7. was over, ahead of newspaper revelations that he was having an adulterous relationship with his 41-year-old political secretary, Gaynor Regan.

"The vicious financial stringen-

EW Home Office guidelines published this week will allow limited official disclosure of the addresses of convicted sex offenders to prevent the "scattergun" naming of paedophiles that has sparked vigilante action in re-

The controlled release of details on the National Sex Offendera Register to be set up next month will in clude convicted rapists as well as those who have finished jail sentences for child sex crimes.

Ministers have made clear they do not want local residents to be automatically given the names and addresses of convicted sex offenders who move into their area after release from jail.

They fear that the introduction of American rules known as Megan's law, under which the release of convicted sex offenders from prison is widely publicised, will trigger vigilante action.

But the home affairs minister. Alun Michael, believes there needs to be a public risk assessment i each case to determine how widely the local community is informed. This will be based on the pacdo-

atric reports.

At present it is left to the discretion of local police what should be done with the information held on the Police National Computer.

The new guidelines are expected to end the recent trend of local newspapers and media "outing" offenders, ometimes with tragic results.

When he first outlined his plans in February, Mr Michael told the Guardian: "We are not talking about the automatic notification of the local community. It must depend upon an assessment of risk and there must be counselling and advice for the offender . . . It must be done sensitively or it just gets out in

The "graded response" approach means that in some cases schools, local child protection agencies, and some voluntary organisations, may be informed about a convicted sex offender.

Civil liberties groups and proba-tion officers have voiced fears that disclosure will drive convicted paedophiles underground, changing their names to avoid being plnpointed. Some are believed to have already changed their names by deed poll to escape the register.



Big Ben . . . leaning closer to Moscow

in the ground".

A decision by David Blunkett, the Leady Education and Employment Secretary accepted before the Government de-

accepted before the Government de-

cided to end free higher education.

John Hall, head of the education

law department of Eversheds, a

large London solicitors' firm, said

imposing fees on students who had

already applied would override their

rights retrospectively. It would be

"unfair, inequitable and incompati-

with consumer rights".

ble with other legislation dealing

The popularity of a gap year be-

tween school and university has

Tube work tilts Big Ben

'Gag' on gene-altered food

UROPE'S biotechnology Indus-__ try has been warned not to discuss the safety of genetically engineered food and the risks it poses to the environment, according to a leaked document seen by the Guardian.

Danny Penman

EuropaBio, which represents the interests of the industry, received the advice from Burson Marsteller, leading worldwide crisis manage-

Burson Marsteller, which represented Babcock and Wilcox during the Three Mile Island nuclear crisis in the United States in 1979, has been brought in to try to improve the intage of the biotechnology industry.

The company also represented Union Carbide after the Bhopal disaster in India, which killed up to 15,000 people, and it helped to manage public relations during the mad cow disease crisis. It has also advised oppressive regimes in Indonesia, Argentina and South Korea.

NIVERSITIES were this week

concessions for students caught in

the "gap year trap", as confusion

deepened over this summer's entry

Thousands of applicants who

intended to postpone entry until

1998 face £1.000 tuition fees and the

potential loss of maintenance

grants. The Universities and Col-

leges Admissions Service (Ucas)

has warned this could prompt a

stampede of up to 90,000 extra

students through the clearing sys-

already risen by 42 per cent.

pressing ministers for further

Donald MacLeod

posed by genetically modified food, including environmental dangers.

Instead of discussing these is logic" — symbols that elicit "hope. satisfaction, caring and self-esteem".

publications so that it can target sympathetic outlets. Peter Linton, the company's spokesman, said the industry had behaved in the past 'like an axe

According to the leaked docu-ment, Burson Marsteller has drawn up plans for a campaign "to change perceptions" of genetic engineering, dotechnology, food and environmental safety across Europe.

The company says it cannot hope to win the arguments over the risks

sues, Burson Marsteller advises the industry to focus on "symbols, not It has also drawn up plans to mon-

itor the activities of journalists and

murderer with something to hide". The campaign was intended to shed that image.

Colleges fear stampede to avoid fees

tary, to exempt students from fees if

they spend at least three months

doing voluntary work with a reput-

able organisation was meant to calm

the situation, but failed to satisfy

hastily worked out by his depart-

ment and were expected to be an-

The National Union of Students

said it would back a legal challenge to

allow any student to take up a place

next year without being penalised.

The Committee of Vice Chancellors

Details of the scheme are being

universities or students.

nounced later this week.

Environmental groups have dismissed the strategy as "cynical and

Professor John Burland, of Rebecca Smithers imperial College, who is an expert in subsidence, has helped to TIS proving to be the most challenging project in London Underground's history, taxing 'correct" the most famous lean of all - on the Tower of Pisa. Big Ben regularly moves sevthe brains of the world's most

experienced civil engineers and eral millimetres every year as a seasoned experts in giant "holes result of natural seasonal movement of its stonework, leaning The goal: construction of a up to 5mm towards Russia in brand new Tube station at he summer. But with the Westminster to house the capi-Victorian landmark just 16 metal's £2.6 billion Jubilee Line extres away from the new Tube tension and the foundations of a tunnels under Westminster huge new building for MPs — Bridge, and 24 metres from the while keeping busy District and station itself, the excavation Circle Line tube services runwork has inevitably increased

the movement.
"There is nothing to worry ning 20 hours a day.

And on top of that, tackling the about," insists Mike Jenkins. practical problems of digging senior supervisory engineer on London's deepest station site the project, who says the tower alongside one of Britain's most has been periodically stabilised amous listed landmarks, Big through the injection of concrete through a process called com-Underlining the importance of don grouting.

the work is LU's appointment of The new station is due to open a special adviser to the project. in September next year.

> are using the time constructively. Meanwhile ministers on Tuesday found themselves in the embarrassing position of abandoning Conservative education targets for 2000 as

A report from the National Advisory Council for Education and Training Targets calls for a review of the targets and makes it clear that Britain is unlikely to reach goals such as 60 per cent of 21-year-olds gaining two A levels or the voca-tional equivalent. The latest figure had risen only 2 per cent, to 46 per

cent. The proportion of 19-year-olds

grown. One in 10 students going to
Oxbridge plans deferred entry.
University admissions tutors and

3 per cent, to 70 per cent — still well
short of the 85 per cent target.
Baroness Blackstone, the educatem when A level results come out and Principals admitted it was conthis week. Late applications have cerned to avoid the risk of universingly well disposed towards the idea, nounced a consultation on the I dies being sued if they charged fees I providing candidates show they I future direction of the targets.

AN INQUIRY into the line by members of the line Lords to declare all their line. ing interests is expected by launched next year by the Committee on Standardsh Public Life. There is cured voluntary register of laints but many peers have release declare their company distrains and connections side lobbying companies.

in Brief

S INN FEIN took another towards the September li multi-party negotiation she the republican party a leader Gerry Adams, had talle with Northern Ireland Secretary Mowlam, at Stormont Case was Mr Adams's first facetal meeting with a government ister since the new IRA case was called last month.

THE Social Security Misc Frunk Fleld, introducely posals to curb teenage prenancies, including a planter, young single mothers to this their experience in schools. Under-age pregnancy with 4 per cent in 1994-5.

C HRISTOPHER BRAND Edinburgh university who the fended paedophilia and with tific racism", was sucked tific university tribunal found him guilty of diagraceful conduct.

OVERTY causes member some ethnic minority for to be 50 per cent more like suffer ill health than white, according to a Policy Studie Institute report.

POLICE arrested the model when the jet-ski on whiching were riding collided with spe boat on an Oxfordshire kie.

BC RADIO 1's audisorb
alipped below 10 milest the first time, reflecting the parture of Breakfast Shorts Chris Evans from the cope tion's youth-oriented siste and relentless compet commercial broadcasting

ASSENGERS onboan Sabre Airways flight b. at Gatwick airport became "riotous" and were ordered the aeroplane after their flight was rerouted.

R OBBERS stole up to its guards were ambu they stopped to buy said

HE Internet is cree dicts in exactly the as drink, tobacco, drug bling do, a psychologist

with five GCSEs or equivalent rose HE drink-drive il be cut to the equ just one pint of beer as range of options to reduce

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

Blair juggernaut buffets friends and foes alike

Jonathan Freedland reports on how 'Phoney Tony' | London. This has made tactical | when he said New Labour had disas Labour celebrates its first 100 days in office

sion of bedtline reading to kids.

of everyone else's lives.

Critics say such moves do indeed

Anxious to cast off the pre-elec-

tion libe that New Labour would

merely tinker with the status quo,

convey the impression of a govern-

ment that wants to be in charge -

AR from being stressed out by | or a recommended 20-minute sesthe most powerful job in Britain, Tony Blair has the apparance of someone who has caught up with his natural destiny.
It is well known that Mr Blair

never harboured any particular ambition to be leader of the Labour party; he only ever had one destination in mind and that was 10 Downing Street. For Mr Blair, becoming pring minister has not been shock. He was born to it.

Mr Blair dedicated his first 100 days to a simple objective: taking charge. He has attempted it at every level, from the inside of his inner rircle to the continent of Europe itself. In three months, he has sought to get a grip not only on government but British politics itself. The effort began with his most in

timate counsel. He moved swiftly on May 2 to construct a kitchen cabinet of the men he trusts most. To his former boss and mentor, Derry trying, he gave the ermine robes of the Lord Chancellor - and the access and clout of a Willie Whitelaw The former Washington-based diplomat Jonaman Powell became chief of staff with a brief to ensure the I'M's will is done. Alastair Campbell dug in as press spokesman, with enough muscle to make every other department buckle before No 10. Finally, the self-styled sorcerer of the black arts, Peter Mandelson, was told to "go on being Peter", crafting the

message of the new regime. The significance of these men is that they owe their allegiance not to party, nor even to government, but to Mr Blair himself. Their prime mission over the first 100 days was to hring the Cahinet, dozens of junior ministers, 417 Labour MPs and the entire Whitehall machine under the PM's control. To describe the syslem they have built as presidentia is not quite accurate: the US president is nowhere near as powerful.

And so John Major's brand of collegiate cabinet government vanished in an instant. Sometimes Mr Blair squares his decisions in advance with fellow members of the Big Four — John Prescott, Gordon Brown and Robin Cook — but not always. Dissent around the cabinet table is easily brushed aside. In these 100 days the pattern has been set: it's Blair's government, and he

always gets his way.
in this constellation, two other groups are left out. Labour party members amount to little more than a pressure group, admits one Blair aide, while Whitehall mandarins o, are freque rushed by the Blair juggernaut.

As with the government machine, o with the nation. Mr Blair has spent his first three months assurng voters that the days of Majorite lecision are over, and that he is in firm charge.

The appearance of activity and nergy has been crucial. Witness e photogenic bike race at the Amerdam summit (which Blair won). In policy terms, the PM has strived to send the same message, casting his administration as one rly bubbling over with ideas. Each day has seen a new announcement, with the Blair team showing a special fondness for the cost-free, "emlematic" gesture: a proposed ban

on the sale of cigarettes to under-18s

through Labour's toughest proposals while the headwind of May 1 is still in its sails. But it's also been designed to show the Prime Minister getting a grip.

The pace and sheer quantity of legislation expresses another Blair goal. His allies say that, of all the Tory charges against him, the claim that he was Phoney Tony hit hardest. They say Blair was determined to use these first 100 days to prove Mr Blair has also used his first 100 he is for real. That's why he has not days to show he thinks big. The countenanced increased taxes on windfall tax, Welfare to Work, uni- | consumers nor any deviation from versity tuition fees, Scottish and Tory notions of restricted public Welsh devolution, the mayor for 1 spending; he is bent on proving that 1 His two enticements to the Liberal 1 100 days - in charge,

stance, he meant it

Labour's slogan, displayed again at last week's 100 Days press conference, is Modern, Fair and Strong. This is precisely the stamp Blair has sought to put on his premiership since taking office. "Modern" is taken care of by the chinos-anddenim image, "Fair" has been signalled with small actions; loosening the asylum rules, restoring union rights to GCHQ. But "strong" is the one that matters most.

Mr Blair has moved in these first 100 days to make strong his own position at the heart of British politics. Democrats, seats on the Cabinet's constitutional committee and a promise for proportional voting in the 1999 Euro-elections, could lead to complete Blair domination of what he calls the "radical centre" But Blair has been looking even fur ther. He wants to colonise the Tory left and centre as well. In all the rumpus over the trade minister, David Simon, It was easy to bury the lead: that a mega-rich capitalist businessman has actually joined the Labour party.

UK NEWS 11

And he is not the only one. A new establishment is forming, a coalition in which Labour party members and trade unionists are junior part ners. That may be hard for them to swallow, but it could leave Blair exactly where he wants to be for the next 100 months, let alone the next

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Under pressure from the World

the ODA's satisfaction.

secure land rights, wholly inadequate health care and have been adversey

affected by logging companies nor

ing in on their ancestral forests.

However, the foresters running the

ODA's project have been at a loss on

how to follow up on these findings

Amerindians' rights, the ODA ha

explicitly rejected adopting what it

based on 'land rights'". What this

means has only just become der

Far from acting to secure the

Amerindians' welfare by noncon-

frontational means, the ODA be-

been drafting laws that will exten

the area to be opened to logging as:

provide loggers a way of dodging

O MEASURES are conten-

the moratorium on concessions b

plated to ensure that the Amerindians' needs are fir:

go ahead. "This is a formula for for

ther conflict," says Jean La Rose of the Amerindian Peoples Associa

tion. "The ODA is helping foreign loggers take over our lands, what

what we want is to develop our com-

munities based on our own trate

pirates remains to be seen.

Pressed to give priority to the

Washington needs to be impartial

THE MIDDLE East peace process, if one still exists, is back on the agenda and not before time. On the Israeli side, Binyamin Netanyahu has announced its suspension in terms that imply he does not really care. Yasser Arafat warns of a descent into chaos — the sort of prophecy that can become self-fulfilling. Both sides need a firm reminder that the stalemate cannot continue. The recent European initiative may have played some part in nudging back the attention of a distracted Washington. But can the administration succeed in playing the honest broker when it is so closely identified with one side?

The policy speech on the Middle East last week by the United States secretary of state, Madeleine Albright, was hailed widely in the Israeli press as a "diplomatic triumph" for Mr Netsnyahu. On a textual reading this may seem unjustified; she implied criticism of Israeli settlement-building by insisting on the need to avoid "unilateral acts which pre-judge or pre-determine issues reserved for permanent status negotiations", But this followed an uncoded critique of the Palestinian Authority (PA) - in terms Mr Netanyahu might himself have used - for failing to make "an unrelenting effort to detect and deter potential terrorist acts". It may be true that there is "no moral equivalency between suicide bombers and bulldozers" But those Palestinians bulldozed off their land will feel differently. Mr Arafat is being asked to take tougher measures against Hamas in a climate where Israel holds the PA under siege, starves it of funds which it is owed, frustrates implementation of deals on essential infrastructural projects, and continues to pre-empt a final agreement by creating new facts - new settlements - on the map. This is not only unrealistic but, if he complies, bound to weaken his authority further.

In agreeing to resume trilateral security meetings, Mr Arafat has in fact acceded to the USlaraeli demand to put security first. Typically, this concession is scoffed at by Mr Netanyahu, who says it just delivers more "pretty words". He also shrugs off the PA's arrest of 11 Islamic militants, saying that they have only been taken in "to protect [them] from possible Israeli arrest". Mr Netanyahu will go on scoring these petty points unless Dennis Ross, Washington special envoy, can invoke President Clinton's authority to tell him to shut up - or forfeit the next tranche of US aid.

The decision to re-engage in the Middle East is being dissected in the US press with a good deal of circumstantial detail about meetings in the Oval Office over the past six weeks. It involves what is admitted to be a high-risk strategy of going for final-status talks. This itself is a concession to Mr Netanyahu in a context where the provisions of the interim agreement are still incomplete. If there is a slim chance of persuading Mr Arafat and the Palestinian people to take the risk, then the impar-tiality of the White House must be established

Time for a new prescription

EW people will have heard of Brian Iddon before last weekend. He was a conscientious councillor for 20 years — and a reader in chemistry at Salford university — before being elected to Parliament in May. He has never sought a media spotlight, but he callable: a royal commission into drugs. Mr Iddon wants an open debate that would include examining decriminalisation. Clare Short, a much more senior Labour figure, was disciplined for far less. Yet not even Labour's most oppressive centraliser should want to censure the new MP. Mr Iddon represents Bolton Southeast, where a five-year-old boy, Dillon Hull, was shot dead in an underworld drug shooting last week and whose three-week-old brother is still in hospital with a heroin addiction contracted from his addict mother.

Mr Iddon's call is all the more powerful because he is not a flashy, sound-bite politician. At 57, he has few expectations of reaching a ministerial position. He speaks for the grassroots. Bolton is an ordinary town in Lancashire. No one is pretending it has turned into the Bronx or Moss Side, But Bolton too has its drug dealers.

As the Home Secretary's department has demonstrated, drugs pose serious criminal problems; one out of five people arrested by the police is using heroin. A Health Department survey of 1,100 addicts suggested they committed 70,000 separate crimes — burglary, theft, robbery — to fund their habit in the three months before entering treatment. Jack Straw believes heroin users alone accounted for \$2 billion of property crime in 1995. Ministers are responding. The forthcoming 1995. Ministers are responding. The forthcoming Crime and Disorder Bill will give courts new powers to introduce treatment and testing orders for convicted offenders with an addiction. Pilot schemes are being planned where the offenders will be closely monitored through random tests. But several unanswered questions remain: will they work for reluctant offenders or will they only disrupt the rehabilitation of addicts who want to reform? And will there be enough places? There is already an eight-week waiting period for existing treatment programmes.

More controversially, Labour has advertised for a "drugs tsar" to co-ordinate all agencies.
Undoubtedly more co-ordination is needed but
the fear of addiction specialists is that the
Government's rhetoric — exemplified by its choice of an American label for the new official - will result in more emphasis on enforcement rather than treatment. The balance of expenditure is already too skewed towards enforcement. Of course, the supply of hard drugs needs control, but the key to

progress remains in reducing demand.

A national debate about drugs is long overdue. A royal commission is the ideal body to conduct such a debate on rational and non-ideological lines. Ministers should seize the opportunity raised by Dillon Hull's murder to set up just such an inquiry. All three main political leaders have been far too wary in the past of being seen to be soft on drugs. It is time they stopped being so pusillanimous. The police have been far more sophisticated in documenting the many ways in which current policies are failing. Unlike the politicians, they have been ready to examine the de-criminalisation of soft drugs. The Dutch demonstrated in the 1980s how soft drugs such as cannabis can be decriminalised - through the prosecution process — rather than the law, Unlike Britain, consumption in Holland actually dropped.

Dr Carey should be wary

NOT FOR the first time, the Archbistop of Canterbury has run luto trouble for speaking his mind. At a press conference in Sydney, he was asked if he thought Camilla Parker Bowles would make a good queen. Most of those present no doubt expected that Dr Carey would duck the question - the press had been briefed that he wouldn't discuss the subject — but instead he gave a straight answer. While the Prince of Wales's divorce was not an issue, he said, a remarriage would lead to a "crisis" for the Church.

For this he has now been reprimanded by Lord Blake, a constitutional expert so eminent that some believe he is the constitution, on two particular scores. First, that if Dr Carey was going to say it, he ought to have said it at home; and second. that in any case, no fresh statement was needed. "If there had been some reason to believe that the Prince of Wales was contemplating going back on his declaration that he did not intend to remarry, that would be one thing," Lord Blake concluded, "but there is no evidence of that."

The first of these charges - poor choice of location — may be fair, but the second is plainly less ost as soon as the prince's intention not to remarry emerged, unnamed friends and advisers began to water it down.

Dr Carey has good cause to be wary, not just on his own account, but because there is little doubt that much of the Church of England would find it unacceptable that the Church's supreme governor would be a remarried divorcé. It is no doubt true, as Lord Blake also says, that the Church could not stop it happening, and that public opinion (if only after long and assiduous massage) would find it supportable. The Established Church, however would be badly, even perilously divided: fundamentalists might refuse to accept Prince Charles as head of their Church. And the case for disestablishment, now quiescent, would be revived. Those who favour that outcome, as the Guardian does, would find no problem with that. But you can't blame Dr Carey for feeling queasy about it.

Aid money is helping the rape of Guyana

A British project benefits timber pirates rather than poor Indians, writes

Marcus Colchester

RITISH AID for Guyana gives priority to the country's poor, right? Wrong. For the past three years, environmentalists have been in an increasingly acrimonious dispute with Britain's Overseas Development Administration (ODA) about its Forestry Support Project, by which \$55 million of taxpayers' money is being spent reforming Guyana's chaotic timber industry.

The project, they find, far from respecting the rights of the country's indigenous peoples - Amerindians, who make up the majority in the lushly forested interior - is actually helping the Guyana government hand out logging concessions to foreign companies, some of which have already achieved notoriety in other parts of the world.

The ODA's project got going just as Guyana was caught in a feeding frenzy by logging companies seeking concessions on generous terms. leading the way was the UK Conservative party's chairman, Lord Beaverbrook, who acquired a bankrupt state logging operation on knock-down terms and passed it on granting them "exploratory lease." to a Dutch shipping company for a nealthy profit.

That concession was, in turn, snapped up by the Prime Group, a Singapore based consortium, and secured before the loggers get the opened the way to a raft of southeast Asian logging companies, flush with capital from stripping the forests of Borneo and from flotations on the Kuala Lumpur stock exchange.

Egged on by the World Bank and he International Monetary Fund. which have been pushing Guyana through "structural adjustment", logging has escalated from a small family business to a billion-dollar inlustry. As well as the World Bankinspired fiscal incentives, the foreign companies are equally attracted by the lowest logging royalties in the tropics, non-existent environmental controls and a pliable political élite eager to do business.

Within five years of commencing its political and economic "liberalisation" - after two decades of stagnation under Forbes Burnham's "socialist" dictatorship — logging concessions have spread to cover nearly half the country, which, with a population of only 800,000, is more than twice the size of Portugal.

The country's Forestry Commission only has five trained foresters, none of whom is assessing forest management. No hope of regulating the loggers, then. The country's Amerindians have led the protests against this folly, demanding that their lands should be secured and protected first, before the interior is anded over to outsiders.

Many Guyanese have backed their calls, indignant that their heritage is being sold off for so little nationa gain. Backed by an international coalition of trades unions, environmentalists and human rights groups, they have called for a moratorium on any further logging handouts. The ODA's project has been designed to counter the runaway logging by building up the capacity of the Forestry Commission and revising the revenue gathering system.

Rainforest Movement, Survival la ternational and Friends of the Earth an agreement has been reached with the Guyana government that no further logging concessions will be handed out until the Forestry Com **IMPRESSIVE** mission has been strengthened to Measures have, notionally, also been introduced into the project to FROM A address the Amerindians' concerns An ODA-funded study by the University of Guyana, has confirmed that the 60,000 indigenes in the country's interior are desperately poor, have in DISTANCE...

> Against the broad landscape of offshore investments Perpetual stands out for the consistency of its investment performance.

...BUT EVEN BETTER CLOSER UP.

tions and knowledge of the forest But take a closer look and you'll Taking advantage of the ODA supine approach, the Guyana go-ermment has just signed the further deals with Malaysian condiscover that this reputation is built on panies. First to benefit is one of Malaysia's largest conglomerals the Berjaya group, which was pelled from the Solomon Islands simple investment philosophy.

Above all we value individualism, trying to bribe a senior government official into granting a concession.
A second deal has been sind unhindered by corporate investment with the more shadowy Kwim Investments Inc. which says kin owned by the Mafira group of Malaysia. A search of company is on the Internet reveals that Mafira Techniques Sdn Bhd is an inless. policies or restrictions. We believe in respecting our fund advisers' proven tional arms sales operation.

Third to benefit is another talents by giving them the freedom to been granted access to forth

the very south of the country.

A similar deal with the Canada ucts is also in the pipeline hour their preferred methods and style. ing to the Canadian Paper won Union, the company is notor its hometown, Thunder Bay, 1 tario, for "its long history of all it can to avoid forestry ember monitor their performance to

mental and labour legislation The ODA has now been remained the Department for International Development, and minister ensure they maintain the Short says it intends to esponial "rights-based approach" to dead investment standards our ment. Whether she can person her foresters that Britain's deaters offshore investors expect. ment money should give months the rights of Amazonian rather than international

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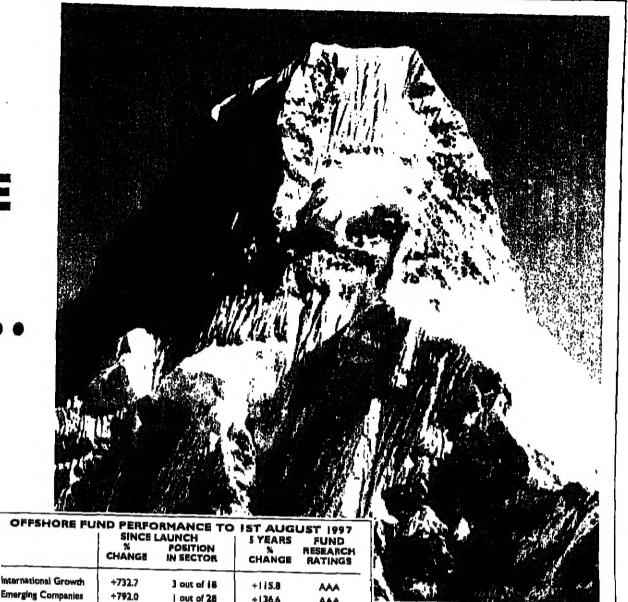
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In Brief

RITAIN'S hard-pressed at porters won a welcome respite as sterling fell against the

national currency speculator

interest rates were unlikely to be

raised further. It followed the

since the election, to 7 per cent.

NVESTORS on the London

stock market marked the

Labour government's first 100

days in power with a \$35 billion

buying spree that sent the FISE

100 index soaring through the 5000 mark for the first time.

fourth hike in interest rates

piling out of the UK currency after the Bank of England said

German mark, with inter-

lapse of the world's first offshore in-

The European Union Bank, located in the former British colony of an international "fraud alert", and Antigua, has gone into receivership, the Bank of England said last week. Its two Russian-born owners are be-lieved to have fled with depositors money. EUB, which has share capial of \$10 million, is said to have inks with Russian mobsters, who al-

legedly used it to launder money.

The Bank of England had earlier ssued a warning to British investors about the dangers of dealing with EUB after a meeting with its former chairman Lord Mancroft, a

Fiercely independent,

Apple has been forced

to 'deal with the devil'.

Jack Schofield reports

OTHING upsets Apple's supporters more than the success of Bill Gates, chief

executive of Microsoft, the world's

nate had come to save them.

waistcoat and collarless shirt.

else's fault. It's our fault. And if we

want Microsoft Office on the Mac,

we'd better treat the company that

puts it out with a little bit of grati-tude. We like their software."

Gates had just announced, as part

available on the Mac for at least the

\$150 million-worth of new non-vot-

next five years.

British investors with the Caribbean-based bank will receive EALTHY investors across the globe are nursing heavy losses after the col-

> A Bank of England official said the Antiguan authorities had put out added that the collapse of EUB again highlighted the perils of carrying out financial transactions across the Internet.

Since its creation in the mid-1980s, EUB has had a succession of wners. Three years ago, the bank hit on the idea of marketing its services worldwide by establishing a website. Billing itself as the first offshore bank on the Internet at its reaunch in 1994, EUB sought to attract wealthy investors by offering high interest. Its rates on deposits

were up to 10 times as much as those at other banks. EUB also exploited Antigua's tax

laws, which guarantee individuals complete financial confidentiality, and have earned the country the reputation as one of the easiest places to launder money. But in February, the Antiguan authorities cracked down on offshore banks and money laundering. They decided to close five of the island's six Russian-owned banks. The EUB came under intense scrutiny.

According to reports in the American press, its two principals, Servey Ushakov and Vitali Papsouev, Russians based in North America, are now being sought over an alleged fraud. The pair are said to have mafia and KGB links.

Antigua is keen to clean up its financial services industry because it hopes to match the success of Bermuda, which derives much of its revenue from foreign investment.

Earlier this year, Antigua sought help from London, inviting the Foreign Office's special advisor on the financial services in the region to examine its banking sector.

But it faces an uphill struggle British and US officials believe many of Antigua's 57 offshore banks have been used to launder money stolen from former Soviet institutions. Antigua's prime minister, Lester Bird, has since halted registration of new banks and is revising the country's banking laws.

The island is handicapped in its fight against organised crime by a lack of resources, it has a population of 67,000 and its economy i based almost entirely on tourism, which has declined in recent years.

phoned him in 1985 and said Apple

should license the Mac operating

system if it wanted to survive, but

this advice was ignored. Larry

Tesler - a technology guru hired

from Xerox, who left Apple earlier

this month — confirms that "Apple

considered licensing the Macintosh

from the very beginning; it was al-ways on the table. We were afraid

that someone might come in and

And that is precisely what has

During his MacWorld speech,

Jobs pointed out that "Apple sales in

1995 were \$11.1 billion; in 1996 they

were \$9.5 billion; this year they'll be

\$7 billion, plus or minus a little bit.

That's the problem, or the symptom,

At the same time, Apple's market

share has slipped from a high of

about 15 per cent to what Jobs

thinks is "around 7 per cent" --

some say less - with Windows-

based PCs taking almost all the rest.

due to people buying PCs running Microsoft Windows 95, but the com-

pany admits it has been "hit hard" in

some countries by sales of Mac-compatibles from Motorola, Power

These companies pay hefty li-cence fees to Apple for its propri-

etary technology, but swapping \$200 fees for \$2,000 computer sales

is having a devastating effect on

Towards the end of his speech,

Jobs came up with "Think differ-

ently" as a variation on "Think", the

world's biggest computer company.

"I think you still have to think differ-

ently to buy an Apple computer,

Computing and Umax.

Some of Apple's decline must be

depending on how you look at it."

happened over the past two years,

putting Apple on death row.

undercut us."

VIADIMIR Potanin's Unesin-MFK conglomerate gained: controlling share in one of the world's most valuable metals companies, the Arctic Norilsk Nickel combine, in a contror sial privatisation auction.

ROYAL Dutch Shell reported lower second-quarter profes of \$1.8 billion, reversing then cent trend among oil majors. It blamed lower chemical profis, oil prices and natural gas output for the \$60 million profits dip.

IIE fallout from Japan's lat est financial scandal claim the scalps of the chairman, pro ident and nine executives of Yamaichi Securities, Japan's fourth largest brokerage.

UPERT Murdoch's book

unsold books and job cuts.

— caved in to its critics and

promised to compensate 1.50

lion customers who were mis

sold pensions, rather than

each case in the courts.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

2.1553-2.1581 2.2062-21 20.74-20.76 21,37413 20.74-20.76 22,6851

60.90-81.00

11.22-11.23

9,93-9,94

2.2155-2.2177

WO of Switzerland's bigges financial services company
— Credit Suisse and Winterthe — are to merge to form a \$3216 lion bancassurance group.

publishers, HarperColles, will take a \$270 million charge the largest in publishing to cover costs caused by lossed author advances, inventorial political system." THE Prudential — British biggest insurance compan

British Broadcasting Corp. short-wave radio and widely heard here. These developments are consid-

"It's a very far-reaching decision," said Ann Reesman, general counsel of the Equal Employment Advisory
Council, an employers group. "It
extends the reasons that people can

seven white male Richmond police plaints wherever they come from."

The ruling by a three-judge panel officers have standing to sue the city

Yale University political scientist of the appeals court officially sets

broader principle: All Americans are generally harmed by racial and sex

with him.

were considering whether to appeal. In the case, David W. Childress and six other white policemen alleged in their lawsuit that their im-mediate supervisor made disparaging remarks to and about female and black officers in 1993 that included

1980s, has advocated a new consti-

tution and predicted political re-

Separately, the veteran dissident

significant reforms would take

place within two years, and one

group of intellectuals has published

A new magazine called Hundred Year Tide, which began publishing

last year has been reassessing

orthodox views of Chinese history.

In one article, it blamed the Korean

War on North Korean aggression

instead of U.S. imperialism. Another

article hailed former party general secretary Hu for his 1980s drive to

rehabilitate people who were

branded "rightists" in the 1950s.

Hu, a political reformer purged by

party conservatives in 1987, has

rarely been mentioned in recent

Beijing University professor

Shang says his proposals might be

considered or ignored. Either way,

he could find himself in trouble. But

he says many party members agree

On Friday he went to a funeral and saw an old friend and fellow

party member who had heard

Shang's views on shortwave radio.

He told Shang that "you have said

Moment."

book of 27 essays titled "Critical

forms early in the next century.

eferences to female anatomy. When they filed complaints with the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, their supervisors retaliated against them with shift changes, job transfers and

the Buit alleges.

Microsoft to The Rescue

15

EDITORIAL

PPLE'S COMPUTERS are A Catholic, Microsoft's are Protestant, in the formulation of novelist Umberto Eco, a reference to the rigid but clear steps the Macintosh asks of its loyal users, in contrast with the free but chancier approach of computers that work on DOS and the ubiguitous "Windows," It was the hearty corps of Apple devotees who booed last week's announcement by Apple co-founder Steve Jobs that their foundering company would receive a \$150 million infusion from its Brob-

dingnagian competitor Microsoft. But their wounded pride too Party chief Hu Yaobang in the

build on the important claims it has made on the education. physicist Xu Llangying predicted graphic design and home computer markets.

Microsoft is also a contented party. The business-text success story out of Redmond, Washington - flush with 89 billion in cash for an array of new investments — gains an additional outlet for displaying the Web browser it is marketing in fierce rivalry with Netscape Communications. It wins assurance of a continuing market for the Mac products that Microsoft itself has penetrated to the tune of 8300

shall pass. This latest twist in the shared globul adventure known as the computer revolution offers something for those of all faiths. Apple gains some financial stability to coincide with a general housedeaning of its board of directors. And as the Cupertino, California, '70s-era pioneer gains a bit of Microsoft's '80s-cra sales know-how, it wins a new chance to preserve and

For the consumer, there is hope that new Apple-Microsoft cooperation will lead to more "interoperability," a movement toward greater standardization within the industry that could

however, that the only thing guar anteed in the computer industry Harris Miller, president of the Information Technology Association of America, ventured after the Apple-Microsoft deal was announced, "We're still at the beginning of a development cycle,

ployment Lawyers Association.

million yearly.

reduce user frustration.

Some observers caution, is the constancy of change. As

China Leaders Tolerate Talk of Reform

The Washington Post

Australian and Chinese delegates began their first talks on human rights in Beijing this week. The talks

n mid-September or early October. | said in a speech to the school for | the relatively liberal Communist

party leaders in Beiling that China

s still in the "primary stage of

ing the student-led demonstrations

that rocked the government in 1989.

He remains under loose house ar-

Analysts say Jiang's speech showed that he felt safe from

threats to his power, especially from

the fading "left" wing of the party,

made up of Marxist ideologues who

worry that economic reform is loos-

Richard Baum, a UCLA professor

of Chinese politics, said that "using

the phrase 'primary stage of social-ism' is an act of confidence. No one

has used that phrase since [the]

Jiang's speech has not yet been published in its entirety, but

excerpts have been published and republished recently in party papers

long with exhortations that the

Such signals are providing cau-

tious encouragement to some liber-

als. Yu Guangyuan, an economist

who was expelled from the Commu-

party faithful study its contents.

l'iananmen" crackdown, he said.

ening the party's Iron grip.

Steven Mufson in Beijing

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

August 17 1997

TUST two months before a key Communist Party congress. China's cautious president and party chief, Jiang Zemin, appears to be veering toward economic reformers and tolerating the first peeps about political reform since before the 1989 crackdown on protesters here in Tiananmen Square,

In a swipe at the dwindling ranks of Marxist ideologues, the Communist Party mouthpiece, the People's Daily, ran a front-page editorial last week proclaiming that "the words 'market economy' have been writ large on the flag of socialism for the

The newspaper denounced party members who favor a slowdown in market reforms and seemed to indicate that recent outbreaks of labor unrest around the country will not turn back efforts to overhaul state

"We ran a planned economy for nore than 20 years and created the oundations of industrialization, but i was still an economy of scarcity and an economy of poverty," the paper said. "Ahead is a new world," added. "There is no way back."

Meanwhile, for the first time since 1989, a handful of intellectuals who are not part of the dissident community have spoken openly about the need for political reform and have advocated free elections and referendums on important national issues.

Last week, a Beijing University economics professor, Shang Dewen, openly proposed a new constitution. nationwide elections for top leadership posts, a free press, a four-year presidency, a more independent udiciary and referendums on key

"China is successful in economic eform," said Shang, 55, who has been a Communist Party member or several decades. "But at a certain stage, it needs the corresponding political reform. The economic rules demand the reform of the

Although friends warned him that speaking out could be dangerous, Shang said the time is ripe to push for changes. A Chinese newspaper refused to carry his views, but they have been broadcast over

ered momentous in the context of China's incremental style of politics, especially because of the proximity point in Chinese politics. of the 15th Communist Party Congress that probably will take place

This will be the first one in 20 socialism," a buzz phrase used in years without the presence of the the late 1980s to justify a wide range ate paramount leader Deng Xiaoof economic and political reforms. ping and thus will provide a test of In using the phrase and abandonlang's leadership and the cohesiveing more dogmatic language he used in the aftermath of Deng's ness of the Chinese leadership as a death in February, Jiang echoed the man he replaced as party chief. Zhao Ziyang, who was ousted dur-

rest in Beijing.

could signal a new flexibility on the part of China's leaders

On Monday, China's top leaders had been cloistered for more than a week at the beach resort of Beidaihe, jockeying for party and government posts and hammering out a policy consensus in advance of the erty congress.

Party congresses are held only once

every five years.

Although Deputy Premier Zhu Rongil is widely expected to replace Li Peng as premier, debates are confinuing over crucial personnel questions such as what to do with the still-powerful Li, whether to expand the all-important seven-man Standing Committee, and who will replace two octogenarian senior miltary officers, one of whom also sits

on the Standing Committee. While the leaders share similar economic reform views the outcome of this jockeying will carry important policy implications on ssues such as Taiwan, political reform and relations with the United

The current trend appears to

ple see this as a potential turning

White Men's Bias Ruling Is 'Far-Reaching' | tion: Virginia, Maryland, North Carolina and West Vir | the 1964 Civil Rights Act, saying the supervisor's bias destroyed team-

Brooke A. Masters

FAR MORE employees who think they've been harmed by racist and sexist behavior in the office or factory — even if they were not targets of the bias would be able to sue companies for creating a hostile work environment under a federal appeals court deci-

officers have standing to sue the city

blacks were not aimed at the officers. The officers must now go back to court and try to prove they were harmed by their work environment.

sion, legal analysts said last week.

The 4th U.S. Circuit Court of firms that employers need to be significant and responsive to com-Appeals in Richmond found that | vigilant and responsive to com-

even though their supervisor's bi- Rogers Smith said the decision | precedent only within its jurisdic-

While the U.S. Supreme Court ruled in 1972 that whites can claim they were harmed by housing discrimination against blacks because it violates their rights to associate with minorities, last week's decision extends the principle into a new area: hostile environments created by sexual and racial harassment.

ginia. Richmond officials said they work in the department and made it less likely that black and female officers would back them up in danger-ous altuations. But U.S. Senior District Judge Richard L. Williams threw out the men's complaints.

negative performance evaluations.

The officers then filed suit under

13 Lawyers who represent employees said the Circuit Court of Appeals decision flows straight from existing precedents. "The whole idea is that you need to make the law as broad as possible so that young people and Anglos will speak out" about age and race discrimination, said Barry Roseman, a Denver lawyer who is vice president of the National Em-

Office was popular on the Mac belargest computer software supplier. and one of the world's richest men. fore it even reached the PC, it is al-It was galling for the thousands of ready used by about 8 million Mac Macintosh computer users, gathered in Boston, Massachusetts, last owners, and the next version is almost finished. week for the annual MacWorld exhi-Also, Microsoft's dedicated Macbition, to find Billionaire Bill beamintosh programming team - based ing down at them from a huge in San Francisco, well away from screen. They booed, they hissed. the Windows gurus at Microsoft's Nothing illustrated Apple's desper-

of Office, but that's no hardship;

headquarters in Seattle - is churning out versions of Internet Exate plight more than the fact that the plorer, and Apple has already shipped more than one million man some regard as the devil incar-The scene — which took place in copies with its latest version of the the church-like nave of Boston's Mac OS operating system.

In fact, Microsoft hasn't agreed to stone castle - had eerie echoes of the 1984 commercial used to launch anything that isn't in its interests. the Apple Macintosh 13 years earlier. That had featured a Big Most noticeably, it has not committed itself to putting Office on Brother figure ranting away on a Apple's next-generation operating system, code-named Rhapsody, similar video display, until an ath-

of this notion

that for Apple

letic young woman ran in to hurl a which could sledgehammer through the screen. compete Perhaps some of the audience against were hoping that life would imitate Microsoft's advertising, but it didn't. Instead, the faithful found themselves being fast-growing Windows admonished by their hero, Apple co-

founder Steve Jobs, who was pacing However the stage dressed casually in a dark Apple's quid pro quo "We have to let go of this notion | support for that for Apple to win Microsoft has Internet Exwin, Apple has to do a really good

to win, Microsoft has to lose' --- Steve Jobs Java — will job. And if we screw up or we don't

help Microsoft in the bitter battles it | code to tens of thousands of manu do a good job, it's not somebody is fighting against Netscape, the market-leader in browsers, and Sun.

Microsoft will have to cough up perhaps \$250 million over the next three years, but this is small beer for a company with more than \$9 billion in the bank. Not having to of Microsoft's deal with Apple, that | worry about patent lawsuits from Microsoft Office — by far the most important suite of software for that Microsoft might even make a desktop computers - would be profit on its Apple shares, which almost doubled in value in the two

days after Jobs's announcement. Microsoft had also agreed to buy The whole computer industry would be a happier place without the so-called feud between Apple ing Apple stock (just under 5 per cent of the company), and to pay and Microsoft, though the truth is Apple an unspecified sum as part of that the feud has mostly been Apple

a patent cross-licensing agreement. | against Microsoft.

In return, Apple would make | After all, Microsoft has always

Microsoft's Internet Explorer the | been the Mac's biggest third-party supporter. It developed all its bestdefault Web browser in its computers' operating system, and co-operselling Office productivity applicaate with Microsoft on various tions - including the Word word software technologies including processor and Excel spreadsheet on Apple's machine. Gates even an-Java, the trendy computer language peared alongside Jobs at Apple sales owned by Sun Microsystems of Caliconferences, encouraging rival soft-The deal looks good for Micro-

Gates buys a piece of forbidden fruit

ware houses to write for the Mac. soft, it can't dump the Mac version This is not to accuse Microsoft of anything but self-interest. It has benefited from being the biggest supplier of Mac software, which brings in revenues of about \$300 mil-

lion to \$400 million a year.

Apple aficionados also believe that Microsoft Windows is little more than a clone of the Mac's graphical user interface, and there is some truth in the accusation. However, both companies took the idea from the same source — Xerox's Palo Alto Research Centre in California — and John Sculley the former Apple chief executive who ousted Jobs in 1985, licensed an early version of the Mac interface to Microsoft. Whatever the morals of the case, Apple lost its

seven-year lawsuit against Microsoft, and Xerox lost its lawsuit against Apple. The most important 'We have to let go

between rival operating systems has noth-

Microsoft computer

Apple kept its system under tight Apple's 1984 "Big Brother" advertisement promised users freedom. but not from Apple. Only one company supplied Macs, and it charged a premium price for them. At their peak, Apple's gross profit margins were more than 50 per cent: far higher than in the cut-throat PC

facturers, whereas, until recently

clone business. By contrast, the PC user was free to buy from hundreds of suppliers, including IBM, Compaq and Dell, while also enjoying a far wider range of compatible computers, from handhelds to large, multiprocessor network servers.

said Jobs, buttering up the audience he'd so recently shocked. "And I think the people that buy them do think differently. They are the creative spirits in this world." This is the sort of pseudo-hippy stuff Jobs used to spout 20 years ago, when Apple was just an ordinary garage start-up company (ex-cept for the millions of dollars it had

raised in venture capital).

The world has changed since then. The agreement with Microsoft perhaps shows that Apple has stopped trying to fight battles it lost in the eighties, but it doesn't address today's real problems, with licensees. let alone provide evidence According to Sculley, Gates that it can cope with the future.

2.9484-2.9510 303813F Germany 12.31-12.32 Hong Kong 1.1048-1.1071 Ireland 2,876-2,889 183.98-184.21 192.65 3.3219-3.3248 2 4750-2,4793 New Zeelen 12.12-12.14 COR 24-298,58 24R.04-249.16 12.97-12.69 2,4200-2,4231 1.6902-1.6912

Canada

France

1.4976-1.5000 PTRE 100 Share Index up 198.2 at & William Drozdiak in Frankfurt

THEN THEY first entered

Parliament in 1983, Germany's Greens party mem

bers flaunted their image as pacifist tree-huggers. Clad mostly in blue-

jeans and sandals, they marched into Bonn's somber legislature waving

anti-NATO banners and clutching

pine branches damaged by acid rain.

But the pressures of conventional

politics took their toll. The Greens

soon lost influence as internal

power struggles sapped morale and

When the Cold War ended and

Germany became unified, the Greens' failure to build a new

agenda led to a humiliating defeat in

1990 in which they lost all their

seals in the Bundestag, the lower

the 21st century.

Mary Jordan in Tokyo

rival parties embraced environmen

many's Greens party mem-

Anthony Faiola in Lima

FTER HIS slege of the Japanese ambassador's home in April to free hostages from the clutches of Tupac Amaru rebels, people in this Andean nation joked that President Alberto Fulimori should be made the undisputed emperor of Peru. But no one in Lima is aughing any longer.

Fujimori, a national hero then, has plunged the country into severe political crisis as a series of major scandals has damaged his popularity and caused observers to question whether his government is becoming a thinly veiled dictatorship.

The mounting allegations against Fujimori's government include domestic espionage, wiretapping, torture, and harassment of opponents and journalists. Fujimorl has unceremoniously fired three members of the Constitutional Tribunal who said he could not seek another presidential term in 2000. His government also is taking actions against press freedom, including a move to revoke the citizenship of Baruch Ivcher, an Israeli-born Peruvian who runs elevision station critical of Fujimori.

"Peru is no longer a democracy," said former U.N. secretary general Javier Perez de Cuellar, who lost to Fujimori in the 1995 presidential election. "We are now a country headed by an authoritarian regime."

Last week, tensions escalated over allegations that Fujimori had spied on Perez de Cuellar during the 1995 campaign. A local television station produced a five-inch-thick document containing the text of more than 1,000 of Perez de Cuellar's telephone conversations that were supposedly intercepted by government intelligence operatives over the past three years. The calls revealed detailed information about the Perez campaign strategy, including names of campaign leaders who were later allegedly followed, harassed and, in

some cases, physically attacked. The president also is fending off | Path and Tupac Amaru movements charges that his Japanese parents fal. He curtailed hyperinflation and sified his birth certificate to make it

est office. In Congress, opposition leaders are calling for official investigations. Some opponents are urging Fujimori to resign if it is found that he was indeed born outside Peru -

something Fujimori has denied. That leading politicians are find-ing fault with Fujimori is not surprising. But perhaps more telling is the fact that, for the first time during his seven years in office, he is losing the support of the masses. Thousands of Peruvians have staged massive anti-government demonstrations outside the government palace and continue to keep vigil in front of Ivcher's television station. which has taken on a symbolic role in the crisis. Five of Fujimori's leading ministers have stepped down in protest during the past two months. And polls show his approval rating at 26 percent, slightly more than a third of what it was immediately following the raid on the rebel-held Japanese ambassador's residence.

Still, there is no indication that Fujimori is in danger of losing power; on the contrary, the moves that have proven so unpopular also appear to have strengthened his grip on Peru.

"The opposition would like to say we are monsters, but they are grossly exaggerating the situation," said Congressman Carlos Ferrero, a member of Fujimori's party.

The turn of events in Peru is characteristic of Fujimori's improbable odyssey from university intellectual and political acolyte to the most controversial and highest-profile South American politician of the 1990s.

In a poverty-stricken country where the majority are of mixed In-dian and European blood, Fujimori, of Japanese descent, became the first political and social outsider to become president. He used his strong grass-roots backing - and close ties to the still-powerful Peruvian army - to wage war against two guerrilla insurgencies, virtually annihilating the violent Shining brought unprecedented foreign in-



been fraught with controversy. In | information about an ongoing plan 1992, Fujimori committed what op- to silence opposition journalists ponents called a coup d'etat by dissolving Congress and dramatically increasing executive powers with the help of the military and his own shadowy intelligence machine, headed by an adviser named

Vladimiro Montesinos. Montesinos holds no official title, reports to no one save Fujimori and reportedly earns an annual salary of \$600,000. Indeed, some here are now publicly wondering if Montesinos and Joint Chiefs Chairman Nicolas Hermoza are influencing Fujimori's

The security services have been at the forefront of the current crisis since April, when it was revealed appear that he was born in Peru — a prerequisite to hold the nation's high But his administration has also cover agent who reportedly leaked

through threats and physical abuse, was taken to a basement of military headquarters and severely tortured. Ivcher's station led the coverage of La Rosa's accounts and also began

reporting on Montesinos' salary and gence agency. Ivcher is currently holed up in Miami while he fights the government's charges, which are widely viewed in Peru as untrue.

Helms, R-North Carolina, chairman most controversial decisions. of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Rep. Benjamin A Gilman, R-New York, head of the House Committee on International Relations, saying the move had damaged U.S.-Peruvian relations.

\$1 Million Over Affair

Jon Jeter

With their judgment, jums essentially agreed with 40-per-old Dorothy Hutelmyer, the jilted spouse, who contended

"I think that the people is our community are saying with this verdict that families are in portant," said Dorothy Hutelmyer's attorney, James Walker. "We just recognize down here that we want to preserve the

Wayne Abernathy, Margie to comment except to say he

is the result of an old, seldonused provision contained in North Carolina law, which prothird party disrupts the marriage's intimacy, most typically

Margie Hutelmyer acknow-ledged that an affair began with her boss in 1994, Walker said James Hutelmyer moved out of the family home last year, and filed for divorce, which was find ized in March.

Jurors deliberated for less han three hours before want ing Hutelmyer \$500,000 in compensatory damages and another \$500,000 in punitie

Wife Wins

A NORTH Carolina woman who sued her husbands mistress for breaking up their 19-year marriage was awarded \$1 million in damages by a

that her husband was entired into an affair by his secretary, Margie Cox. James Hutelmer. an insurance-company executive, divorced his wife earlier this year and subsequently maried Cox, who is now knowns Margie Hutelmyer.

house of Parliament. The histus in the political wilderness nurtured a healthy pragmatism that revived the party's fortunes. Having regained their place in Parliament in 1994, the Greens are attracting wider support from young professionals and even business by advocating moderate yet inventive programs to prepare Germany for

Hutelmyer's attorney, decline

would appeal the judgment. Dorothy Hutelmyer's lawsik vides a spouse legal recourse it

through adultery. In a similar case earlier this year, a jury awarded \$86,000b a woman whose husband left lis for another woman. But a \$1 ml lion verdict was thought to be unprecedented.

> The contest was simple: Each of ne robots, had about two minutes o race around an oval track. Guided only by the computerized robotic "brains" their creators had installed on their backs, the robots had to complete the loop as quickly as pos-

sible, making sure to touch eight targets along the way with a little ance attached to their front. As part of a Tokyo robot extravaanza that ended last week Lancelot took his turn against 110 panese robots all brimming with aftware. And the little guy from ollege Park kicked butt.

"I'm shocked we won," said Grefory Walsh, an assistant professor of mechanical engineering, who orga-nized the Maryland team. After the first-place Americans bowed before the judges, they were given prizes that included nearly \$2,000 in cash.

ine category at the Japanese Intertational Robot Grand Prix, was par-dicularly gratifying for the Maryland crowd, because when it comes to the mechanics of robots, it's tough to beat the Japanese.

The robot competition and symposium was held in Tokyo to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Japanese Society of Mechanical Engineering.

The event drew some of the world's top minds in robotics and artilcial intelligence and it showcased some inventive new robots built by apanese students. One could play the cello, and another washed hair,

Hundreds of people came out to according to a Honda spokesman.

"Robots were first developed to be used in areas where human labor. was difficult - dirty, dangerous or, hard work," said Kazuo Hirai, a managing director of Honda's re-search and development arm. But Hirai said the next generation of robots is going to "coexist with cial intelligence at the Massachu-

service to the dissolution of NATO and the abolition of the German army, their views have been overwhelmed by Fischer and other advocates of a new post-Cold War realism stripped of anti-American rhetoric and the utopian ideals of global disarmament.

"The old line about taking the German army out of NATO belongs to our revolutionary past," says Rezzo Schlauch, another Greens member of Parliament who has steered the party toward more prag-matic policies, "We now want to show we can be capable of running a future government and not just get by on the charm of saving the forest and other ecological niceties."

Some Greens policies have become mainstream views in Germany. In the wake of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster and the heavy toll of air pollution, much of the country now embraces Greens demands such as shutting down all nuclear power plants and imposing highway speed limits.

While swift geopolitical changes in

the surface of Mars. Still, despite the charm of the mechanical bud-

dies of television and the movies,

Americans generally tend to think

of robots as vaguely cold and com-plicated — and futuristic.

"Most Americans still don't want

to deal with their VCRs," said Julio

Rosenblatt, a niember of the Mary-

and team. There is a greater will-

ingness in Japan to use advanced technology in consumer electronics."

For decades, the Japanese have

oved and nurtured robot charac-

ters. Japanese children grow up

with robot toys, robot cartoons and

a-generally warm image of robots as friendly, helpful and useful. And

backed by enormous support from

Honda, Nissau and many of Japan's corporate giants, as well as the gov-

ernment, Japan has developed

INTERNATIONAL/The Washington Post 17

German Greens Move Into Mainstream

Americans can provide the big respect for the Greens' newfound stick' to enforce peace in Europe." maturity, a majority of Germans say While some Greens still pay lip they no longer have any qualms about role for the Greens in the next

"I think Bosnia was the turning point," said Joschka Fischer, a leading Greens member of Parliament who has revamped the party's thinking about NATO, the United States and the use of military force. "Our party was born in the peace move ment, but the scenes of genocide in the Balkans changed the views of even the most hardened pacifists."

Under Fischer's prodding, the Greens supported the participation of German soldiers in the NATO-led peacekeeping mission in Bosnia, In a dramatic reversal of the days when they led protests against the deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe, Fischer and other Greens leaders now endorse a strong U.S. presence at the heart of an expanding NATO they envision as the foundation of a pan-European security system.

"There is no other choice, because Europe has proved incapable The latest opinion polls show the Greens may win as much as 15 per-fense." Fischer said in an interview.

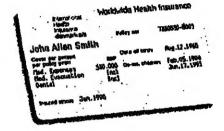
cent of the vote in general elections scheduled for next year, a result that would make them the third-biggest party and likely kingmaker the way to Vladivostok. Only the lead in building a NATO-based security alliance that stretches all the impact of the information revolution and the new global marketplace has created a receptive audience for their calls to explore alternative ways o boost Germany's competitiveness

and solve its job crisis. The Greens now promote "eco-

capitalist" notions that encourage enterprises to make products such as ozone-friendly refrigerators and unbleached paper. Largely because of Greens' lobbying, German Industry has become a leader in environmental technology and controls more than 20 percent of a global market worth more than \$3 billion a year. In Fischer's home state of Hesse where he served twice as environment minister in coalitions with the

Social Democrats, the Greens have racked up an impressive record in regional government. He says the party hopes to make a serious bid for power next year. He is convinced that majority of voters yearn for profound change after 15 years of the conservative ruling coalition headed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, Fischer pelieves a "red-green" alliance of Social Democrats and Greens could break the impasse and overhaul the tax, welfare and pension systems, which many experts say Europe's biggest economy badly needs.

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Complicated Math on the Middle East

COMMENT Jim Hoagland

DRESIDENT CLINTON works the Middle East as a binary problem of Israelis and Palestinians. But the Middle East is a treacherous lixiure of algebra and geometry not arithmetic: Hidden factors, tenebrous equations and wicked angles thwart the best of intentions.

The August crisis in the region shows the administration falling behind the curve of events after four years of sure-footed if uncommanding performance in the peace process. The Arab-Israeli front is not the Middle East's only front. To forget or ignore the region's murder-

tral element of U.S. Middle East pol- on an untended Middle East not to

speech on the Middle East could have been delivered by Israeli Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu. The main problem with the Albright speech is that it came months late.

Clinton and Albright have not taken on board the new reality that Netanyahu months ago stopped running the kind of risks for peace that the late Yitzhak Rabin was braving when Clinton originated his elsewhere have blackened the once promising environment for peace in the Middle East.

Clinton has been sold the view ous nexus is to invite punishment.

Last week the president and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright reaffirmed and intensified the cen-

Most of Albright's lucid, forceful | nate time and energy expended on NATO expansion represents an opportunity lost elsewhere.

Albright's reluctance to plunge personally into the Middle East in her first six months in office is not unprecedented or beyond reason. On becoming secretary of state in 1982, George Shultz told The Washington Post he was going to concentrate on big problems like trade with Canada while his capable aides kept the Middle East from taking up all his time.

administration's Middle East desk officer, ruefully proving the axiom nterested in the Middle East, but the Middle East is always interested n secretaries of state.

It was only a matter of weeks before Shultz became the Reagan that secretaries of state may not be

Albright hoped to avoid Shultz's fate and that of her immediate predecessor, Warren Christopher, who icy under Clinton: unflinching support for an Israel that takes risks to secure peace with the Palestinians.

the damage Syria inflicted on the | enormous implications for the peace process. Albright's absence has not been more effective in peacemaking than was Christopher's ubiquity. In the first months of Clinton's

other allegations against the intelli-

Fujimori's move against lycher

prompted a letter from Sen. Jesse

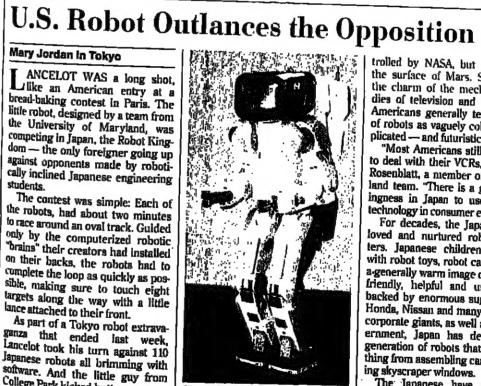
second term, Syria has begun a surprising rapprochement with Iraq's Saddam Hussein, sending trade delegations and opening border posts King Hussein is also mending fences with the Arab world's most radical forces after a period of unstinting cooperation with Washington and Jerusalem. American pressures to contain Saddam, Libya's Moammar Gadhafi and Iran are being resisted by usually friendly Arab regimes with new force.

The drift in U.S. policy in the Persian Gulf was underlined by Wash-ington's unfocused response last week to appeals for help from Jalal Talabani, the only Kurdish leader now willing to fight against Saddam. The message Talabani heard in Washington amounted to a request to go away and leave Clinton's Iraqi nonpolicy to slumber in peace. What happens in Baghdad still has

happens in Cairo, or Jerusalen It Gulf War was fought against se dam in part to break up the parts. Arab radicalism that was a mar obstacle to peace across the re-That nexus is now reconstitute itself in the absence of clear how can leadership toward an allenge. for the region.

Yasser Arafat for turning Pale security cooperation on and si blackmail Netanyahu into into movement on peace. But the istration did not seem to unically or react to Arafat's perfidy as in see of desperation and the new dancy of Arab radicalism that is

dancy of Arab radicalism that Is it Arafat's nature, or the said ation of his circumstance, we him to undermine the process? It is both, just a like yahu is compelled by temperature and by the Hamas lerusalem's market to stop risks and crack the whip Middle Easterners have to the angles all the time. So don't the angles all the time. So don't the dential legacy in the region. dential legacy in the region



Honda's 400-pound, 6-foot-tall

see the most amazing robot of all: a 400-pound, 6-foot-tall robot that could walk up stairs, almost like a Lancelot's victory in Tokyo, in 150 engineers at a Honda laboratory over 10 years, cost close to \$80 milllon in research and development.

gage for hotel guests.
This summer, robots have been

generation of robots that do every-thing from assembling cars to wash-ing skyscraper windows. The Japanese have developed amazing robots in recent years, including some that play volleyball and table tennis or cut down trees. A quintet of robot musicians played for the gathered roboticists last week in Tokyo. With a series of arms and wires and clamps and braces, the robots played two violins, a cello and two flutes. The arms moved remarkably like human arms, bowing the string instruments, and it blew into the flutes to

produce classical music. Some scientists argue robotics' can waste precious research time and money because so much emphasls is in inventing a machine that moves, rather than one that "thinks," Marvin Minsky a pioneer of artifi-

humans, perhaps by aiding nurses in hospitals or acting as nighttime security patrols or carrying bag. building robots was the thing to do in the 50s." Today robots can be tising two big mechanical hands to track an egg onto the customer's the United States by the good work exploring the "brain, not the body" of the Pathfinder craft's rover, con-



NOTORIOUS

Graham McCann

The Life of Ingrid Bergman By Donald Spoto HarperCollins. 474pp. \$27.50

OME STARS achieve notoriety, while others, such as Ingrid Bergman, have notoriety thrust upon them. In 1949, when the news that she had "abandoned" her husband and daughter for the Italian director Roberto Rossellini was reported, the American public fell out of love with Ingrid Bergman in the most sudden and dramatic fashion. From being treated like a saint she came to be regarded as a sinner; the young woman from Europe who a few short years before had been hailed as charmingly guileless, "as unspoiled as a fresh Swedish snowfall," was now denounced as "a stench in the nostrils of decent people," attacked by the Roman Catholic Church for having openly and brazenly flouted the laws of God," and accused on the floor of the Senate of being "an apostle of degradation." It was quite a time. It was quite a story.

Donald Spoto - Bergman's latest and most distinguished biographer - tells it rather well. In Notorious he has, in fact, written two biographies: One concerns the person; the

other concerns the persona. The person was talented, complex and understandably fallible: Orphaned by the age of 13, she sought both love and security, and discovered early on that the capture of one rarely satisfies the craving for the other. She married a man whom she respected, Petter Lindstrom, but had passionate affairs with men whom she loved (such as war photo-PHOTOGRAPH: PETER JOHNS | grapher Robert Capa, musician

Larry Adler and director Victor Fleming). The persona was seductively sweet, simple and saintly: She could play bad women (Clio in Saratoga Trunk), good women (Ilsa were a little of both (Alicia in Notorious) - it mattered little to her huge and adoring audience, for whom an air of simple goodness forever framed her features like a wimple around a nun. In 1949, however, the gap between the person and the persona was revealed for all to see, and her erstwhile admirers' sense of be-

Swedish Saint and Sinner

trayal was profound. "Nobody," complained Bergman. "could have lived up to that unreal image people had created of me." But Hollywood, and what must have seemed to Bergman like most of the rest of America, had expected her to do just that, and it took seven long years, and an award-winning perfornance in Anastasia, before the fallen star was forgiven. "America," notes Spoto, "liked nothing so much as the grand gesture of forgiving a sinner who had, it was felt, done time enough in penitential garb." Her old audience, he adds. "fell in love with her all over again," and her old colleagues, who had abancomed her back into the fold.

But one wonders to what extent such sentiments were reciprocated. This is a strange love affair," her character in Notorious says, adding that the strangeness came from "the fact that you don't love me." In 1956, Bergman, having seen herself go in the eyes of the public from saint to sinner and back again in the course of a single decade, must have been tempted to say something very simi-

Donald Spoto recounts the whole sorry saga — and, indeed, the rest

intriguing life story - with the asgood biographer and the gallant critical passion of the knowledge able fan. He is good on the doughty spirit that informed the life (the producer David O. Selznick, after the solemn recitation of his new employee's "faults" - eyebrows too thick, nose too long, mouth too full. height too great, name "too Ger man" - was taken aback when she had the temerity to reply that he would have to either accept her a she was or allow her to return to Stockholm). And he is equally good

on the underappreciated intelligence that informed the art in one seduction scene, for example, the exploited the voyeuristic scrutay of the close-up by dilating her nostrik momentarily to signal the feelings that were stirring within).

through the ballot box. He is less illuminating when dis His supporters think the exprescussing the nature of the relationsion "de facto leader" is a more acship between the life and the at. curate reflection of his status during but, given the contradictory nature the 1971-78 period - when trade of his subject's own attitude to this unions and opposition parties were question, this is hardly surprising. banned — than the term "dictator" Here, after all, was a woman who apwhich does not take into account peared mystified by the off-screen the full facts of Bolivia's situation at aloofness of her on-screen laters the time and gives a distorted (she complained, for instance, that picture of a man they describe as she "never really knew" Humbre 'popular and progressive". Bogart, and that she "never got to "I know I've got an image prob-lem, especially in Europe," says be a close friend to Gary Cooper and yet she was genuinely incredu-

Banzer, who has suffered not only lous when her fans mistock her from having a German-sounding screen image for her authentic self name, but from having belonged to the very select club of dictators who "Ingrid," Alfred Hitchcock once exclaimed, "it's only a movie." I ran a number of South American was, and remains, a refreshing countries two decades ago, such as Uruguay's Juan Maria Bordaberry, sensible observation, althoug after reading this resoundingly well Paraguay's Alfredo Stroessner, Ar-gentina's Rafael Videla, Brazil's Ernesto Geisel and Chile's Augusto intentioned biography, one wonders if it might have been better at dressed to the credulous audience

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

Alain Abellard in La Paz

last June's general election.

T HIS sixth attempt and at

A the age of 71, General Hugo Banzer, Bolivia's former dic-

tator, was elected president on

August 5 by the country's bicameral

congress, which came to power at

The story of Banzer has as much

to do with redemption as with his

determination over the past 19 years to prove that he believes in

democracy. After organising elec-

tions and stepping down in 1978, he

founded his own party, Nationalist

Democratic Action (ADN), a year

later. Since then, Banzer has

worked tirelessly to return to power

The advent in 1971 of a dictatorship with Banzer in charge was more the result of a civilian govern-ment abdicating its responsibilities than anything else. According to José Gramunt, an observer of Bolivian politics, the National Revolutionary Management (1997) tionary Movement (MNR) and the Socialist Phalange (FSB), the two strongest parties at the time, called General Banzer's supporters outside congress in La Paz last week upon Bolivia's "most prestigious army officer", who was then posted abroad, to return home and help them deal with problems they had been unable to solve.

Gramunt says: "Those two parties engineered an alliance between the civilian authorities and the army in the hope of cobbling together an effective government, and the gen-eral emerged as the sole survivor of that morganatic marriage.

"Bolivia had been thrown into a state of total chaos by 1971 . . . It was teetering on the brink of collapse, and at that time the left thought its only chance of bringing about change was through radical

reached a degree of polarisation that divided society irreconcilably down the middle." Oscar Eid Franco, general secre-

Bolivia's former dictator back at the helm

tary and co-founder of the Revolu-tionary Movement of the Left (MIR), the country's second-largest political force and Banzer's main ally, denounces the "political conspiracy" that resulted in his being accused of links with drug traffickers and held in the very same prison in La Paz city centre where Banzer sent him in 1973, before deporting him to France along with many other opposition leaders.

While recalling those "tough years", Eid has no difficulty in declaring himself to be a whole-That is a view shared by the Bolivian historian Carlos D Mesa Gisbert: "By 1971 the country had determination to resist the dictator."

ship of 1971, and it became "a democratic alternative only when Banzer, who had contacted us, agreed to play ball and organise free elections in 1978". Eid rejects the idea that the Bolivians have elected Banzer

as president "because of their pro-

PHOTO SANDRA BOULANDER

found amnesia". "I have absolutely no regrets about my decision 26 years ago," Banzer now says. "If the circumstances in my country were the same today, I would do likewise, I now have the same weight of re-sponsibility as I had then. Irrespective of what people may say about me, I'm above all a mediator, and it's

in that spirit that I'm going to govern the country." He says he will contact the cocaleros (coca growers) and examine with them how best to put an end to the violent clashes that have been taking place in the Chiapare region. While paying tribute to Banzer.

who "has changed since the period of the dictatorship", Juan Carlos Duran, his unsuccessful MNR rival at the presidential elections, denounces the populist way the ADN has exploited the issue of poverty. He argues that the "coalition that has swept him to power is an illassorted group that ranges from the left to the far right", and that over a period of time it will not survive the realities of running the country and dealing with the challenges facing it.

During his campaign, whose slogan was "Bread, a roof and a job" Banzer committed himself more to "humanising the effects of the freemarket reforms implemented in this country over the past four years" than to suspending them. However, the adjustment measures he advocates do not appear to call into question the changes effected since 1993.

That is the opinion of Simon Reyes, head of the Bolivian Commuhist party and a former leader of the COB trade union federation, "My country is a factory for making poor people," he says, "and the new coalition led by Banzer won't change that fact of life. With people like him, Bolivia will always be a realm

The strength of the coalition formed by Banzer is not seen as a problem by Remedios Loza, the woman who successfully stood as a candidate for the Americalian populist party, Condepa. She will be join

ing the government for the first time. Loza believes that earlier governments thought only of their own interests, and expects her alliance with the ADN to have the effect of making Bolivia's present economic model more flexible. She believes Banzer to be sincere, "because he has given proof of his belief in democracy and is sincerely seeking to create the broadest-based unity in the country". She says her party will support him as long as he keeps his promises. We have five years to see how things go," she says.

On the Road and Going Nowhere Fast

Jay A. Fernandez

THE SPEED QUEEN By Stewart O'Nan Doubleday, 212pp. \$21.95

HIS BOOK is like a joy ride, a spirited yet strangely dispassionate road trip along the contours of one woman's mind, lasting just long enough to feel the exhilaration of the open road, the surprises and freedom of zipping through an unfamiliar landscape, but not long enough to shake an ominous feeling of desperation or to need the rest stops. Which is good, because Marjorie Standiford doesn't let you take one. She doesn't have

Marjorie is talking. At this stage, homa's death row, inching toward midnight on the day of her execution and speaking into a tape-recorder, explaining how she became the Speed Queen and ended up where she is. She's doing this for two reasons. One, she has to combat the lies put forth in her accomplice and former lover Natalie's bestselling book on how they became the Sonic Killers. And, two because the rights to her story have been purchased by the only person who could possibly write the book that would gather a large enough audience to set the record straight - the unnamed, but unmistakable, Stephen King (unnamed due to a panion for her reckless enthusi-

Stephen King). Now while this plot device is

unique in conception and provides some humor as Marjorie gives the Master of Horror tips on his writing, it is mostly a distraction. If the reader can ignore this peripheral conceit and simply tune in to Mar-

tached, often hedging on her cu animal," she has found an apt com-

jorie's voice, he or she will be better for it. Listening to her speak is like scanning the radio horizon, skipping from station to station, picking up pieces of confession, bitterness, memory; her voice will make or break it for the reader. The Master of Horror has sent her 114 questions, and Marjorie —

in her slightly amused, rambling, no-nonsense, girl-next-door lilt -is answering them. Sometimes debility, she wavers between "Why write it if you're going to get it wrong?" and "You can make up whatever story you want." She flits about, describing her childhood, the death of her pet dog, the regretful loss of her virginity, the numerous jobs and firings for theft, and a typical mother-daughter relationship defined by mutual incomprehension: "Every time I came ome I thought things might be different. It only took a few minutes to find out I was wrong." And when she meets Lamont, the handsome bad boy with a "car like an

cal traffic is her fascination with motion and the blur of landscape: "I've always moved a little faster than the rest of the world. . . I don't always stop to think, I just want to go." It takes speed to bring her and the lethargic greater world into sync, and even in prison the illusion of movement is a comfort. In her cell she imagines driving: "I open up my atlas and I've got the Road-runner pegged at 110, headed for the Grand Canyon, the high desert empty on both sides, snow in the ditches. I'm cruising through Albuquerque, the neon of the motels shimmering off the hood. It's like they haven't caught me. No one knows where I am." In her mind she cruises the middle America of

of Monument Valley and the Cadillac Graveyard, of red dust and endless fences. The only other thing that can alleviate her perpetual restlessness is drugs - more often than not speed, which Lamont supplies on demand. "I could feel it heating in my veins like neon. The rush came through me like wind from a semi. It was like slam-shifting gears. It was like being the hood ornament on a runaway truck." It is the Great Wide Open of landscape and anonymous freedom, coupled with her growing drug addiction, that fuels her fate and eventually leads to the first of

her confinements.

Weaving in and out of this histori- | jorie's long-lost soul sister. They same attitude, the same wicked desire for speed. And it's not long be-fore they share the same bed. Marjorie quickly falls prey to Natalie's deceptive games and begins experimenting with her "whole backpack full of toys," but it becomes clear all too soon that Lamont also has a hand in Natalie's grab-bag. Things start to go south, or, rather, west, after their collective drug-dealing and tenuous moneymaking schemes take an ugly turn, causing Marjorie to comment, "Nothing's heavier than money."

N THE run, it begins to dawn on Marjorie that her total embrace of that Ameriand surrounding beauty can be a dangerous mirage. "The night hypnotizes you, the lines holding the car on the road, the reflectors tricking your eyes. Cattle trucks passed the other way, deadheading, lit up like UFOs . . . Around three in the morning, in the middle of the desert, a railroad gate swung down in front of us and a Sante Fe engine blared past, hauling a long line of gondola cars. An hour later I had to wait for it again. It was like we were going nowhere." It's as if there is no real escape from that corrupted modern nightmare of Oprah overload and fast-food fanaticism, popculture paranoja and amail-town There, Natalie appears like Mar- | suffocation. All the while, the grow- | the floor.

ing tension created by Margor's distrust and jealousy of Natals and Lamont's intimacy is as constant a the dead-end road their lives are barreling down. To be sure, it will end in a seemingly unavoidable to plosion of violence. Named one of America's les

than to the complicated star.

Young Novelists by Granta in 188 on the numerous strengths of its two previous novels, Snow last and, most notably, The Name of The Dead, O'Nan has saled gears with his current work We Names is dense, lyrical and book ing, The Speed Queen is literary on fast forward: truncated, its mented, edgy, reveling in its man momentum. Rumor has it that it wrote it while living along Rogs, and, indeed, it reads like a feed tour of the Midwestern psych well, speed. Unfortunately, O'Nan has all

Marjorie's "Just tell a good stof" heart and left it at that — is deal negligible compared with t ing intensity of The Names O'l Dead. Even if The Speed Que resents O'Nan in good form less storytelling, laser-like trenchant commentary end, though Marjorie is not be table, the novel itself probable Not to worry. The great thing O'Nan is that even when cruise control, even when h siderable writing talent output ambition and scope of his remains at the front of the ? porary literary pack. And ye know, with that creative to humming under the hood any moment he could put his

Turks look to new solutions for Kurd crisis

Nicole Pope in Diyarbakir

THE streets of Diyarbakir, the Kurdish "capital" of southeast Anatolia, teem with grubby, ragged children who persistently tug at your sleeve to get you to buy a packet of chewing gum or weigh yourself on the bathroom scales they carry.

They, like the families whose neagre income they supplement, are victims of the 13-year conflict beween Turkish government forces Vorkers' Party (PKK), which has killed more than 23,000 people and forcibly displaced many others, estimated to be between 350,000 and 2 million. Kurds fleeing the fighting or forced by government troops to leave their homes have poured into Divarbakir, whose population has quadrupled to 1.5 million.

This rural exodus has had a considerable impact on local farming.
Stockbreeding has dwindled to the
Boint where Turkey is forced to imfort meat, and market garden produce has become more expensive. Although the war goes on, it no longer dominates life here as it did in the early nineties. The urgency of the passiles

poverty, so as to ensure that today's starving children do not become to that "the armed forces have done morrow's revolutionaries, is now exercising people's minds more than it did. At the beginning of 1997, Turk-ish public opinion was shocked by television pictures of Kurdish

refugees fighting desperately over food that was being handed out. Lack of educational facilities for the Kurds is a chronic problem that is ticking away like a time bomb. The war, the murder of many teachers by the PKK and the rural exodus has caused some 3,000 schools to be closed.

The state cannot be held solely responsible for this state of affairs: Kurds continue to have too many children (often 10 per family), and

the non-armed forces [government and business] to do theirs".

During the conference, Ishak Alaton, head of Alarko, one of Turkey's biggest holding companies, argued in favour of "a united Turkey, not a two-tier Turkey". But if people like him and the government want to end a conflict that is draining the Kurds, there will have to be a material improvement in their situation.

'In and around Istanbul, where only 1.4 per cent of the population lives below the poverty line, the average annual income is \$7,349 per has a great economic potential. It many farmers who used to survive | southeast Anatolia is only \$680 a | crescent, and for decades supplied by getting their children to work the year. Local leaders believe that more fields with them have not really un-

elds with them have not really unlighted Nations sponsored conference on the fight against poverty, organised recently in Diyarbakir, marked a first step in a new direction. Other regions of Turkey are beginning to realise that force alone will not solve the "Kurdish" problem.

In early May the military called in In the need to deal with the problem of representatives of the private sector has been done. It was all lies."

by the government as proof of its determination to get this region out of the doldrums. With its 22 dams and 19 hydro-electric power stations, it will irrigate vast plains and create many jobs.

So far \$12 billion has been spent on the project. But Ahmet Ozer, head of the Union of Municipalities in the region, says the energy created by the dam is sent west to meet the needs of industry in big cities. While the energy tranche of the

project is now 90 per cent complete, only 7 per cent of the irrigation programme, which will have a real impact on the local economy, has been Although inaccessible, the region

head. The figure for some parts of forms part of the celebrated "fertile the rest of Turkey and neighbour

The celebrated "southeast Ana | 26th position, and it now stands tolia project" is regularly presented | 62nd in the rankings. 62nd in the rankings.

A few companies have tried to ignore the war and have invested timidly. But the region will not really take off unless it gets the backing of the government. And the government seems to be dragging its feet.

Huseyin Bora, provincial secre-tary of the pro-Kurdish Hadep party, said recently that he thought the army was clearly seeking a political solution, and that Ankara's policics were becoming more flexible.

ever, been adopted at every echelor of government; a few days after Bora's optimistic remarks, a young man who had replaced a Turkish flag with a portrait of the PKK's leader at the 1996 party conference was sent to prison for 22 years by a state security court. Thirty-one party leaders attending the conference also got jail sentences of up to six years.

Mesut Ylimaz's new government says it intends to redevelop farming in the region, But if the situation i to improve significantly the authorities will have to allow those refugees who want to return home to do so and provide them with enough money to rebuild their lives and their war-torn villages, more than 2,000 of which have been destroyed. (August 8)

1 0

Person Specifications

PROGRAMME OFFICER

Assist in policy development, Service Membe

Organisations regarding projects and programmes in

the three countries. Colinancing. Projects/programme monitoring. Support to Field Offices.

(1) Minimum of 3 years in development NGO

Strong management skills of projects/

(3) Able to develop capacity of field teams

effectively with different groups.

(4) Ability to co-ordinate efficiently and

Major Areas of Responsibilities include:

management position

Jeen-Claude Pomonti in Bangkok

HEN the money was easy and business was thriving, Thailand got into the habit of living beyond its means and accepted a certain degree of ethical laxity in politics. Those times are now over.

The ruling coalition brought to power by the November 1996 election and headed by General Chavalit Yongchaiyudh was slow to realise the scale of the country's economic and financial crisis. The belated decision to float the baht at the beginning of July was taken precipitately, and meant that Thailand had no choice but to turn to the International Monetary Fund for help.

Another of the country's problems is the over-cosy relationship between politics and business. Ever since the military was forced to hand over power in 1992, business patrons have funded election campaigns and political parties.

In such an environment, complicity has prevented essential reforms from going through. The government has kept several financial establishments on a life-support machine, because to allow them to go to the wall would be tantamount to refusing to lend a helping hand to a partner or debtor.

The bitter pill proposed by the IMF — the liquidation of a large number of insolvent financial establishments — will probably cause cracks to appear in the edifice of po-

litical solidarity.

That is why the prime minister, who heads the largest parliamentary party, was careful to put the right people in key economic posts before the crunch came. Several senior civil

servants, including the governor of the central bank, resigned or were

eased out of their jobs.

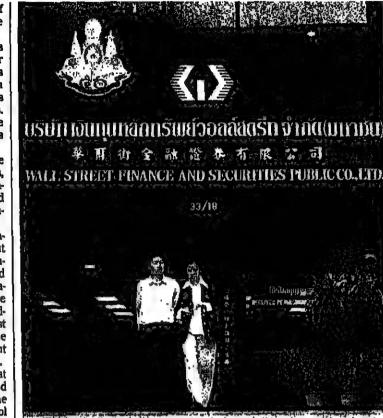
Another of Thailand's handicaps s the wide political spectrum over which votes are spread. This means that in order to have a majority in parliament any government needs to form a coalition of several parties. Six parties are represented in the current government. That reduces its room for manoeuvre.

It is partly for that reason that the two preceding prime ministers, Chuan Leekpal (1992-95) and Banharn Silpa-archa (1995-96), allowed the crisis to gather momentum with out doing much about it.

It is hard to gauge the government's degree of unpopularity, but over a period of many months its inability to take decisions has caused rumblings of discontent. A delegation of businessmen went to see Prem Tinsulanonda, the private adviser to the king, who remains a last recourse in a serious crisis - as he proved in May 1992 when he sent the generals back to their barracks.

After burning its fingers on that occasion, the military is in no mood to intervene this time. Its supreme commander, General Mongkol Anipornpisit, and its powerful army boss, General Chettha Tanajaro, have both "promised" that there will be no coup.

But with confidence in the administration being steadily eroded as the weeks go by, the army officers' attitude could eventually change. There is nothing to suggest that is they felt it necessary they would hold back from a solution that could be sold as an act of "national **Salvation**^u



Open and shut case . . . Investors leave a finance company in Bangkok last week after its emergency closure PHOTO CHARLES DHARAPAK

government than under the previous administration, which was forced to dissolve the national assembly after only 18 months. What is more, no one seems keen to succeed him n the present circumstances.

ish settlement of Har Homa, or Jebel

Their extremists make our ex-

Abu Ghnein, in East Jerusalem.

Oddly enough, the economic crisis may help a more liberal constitu-But Chavalit still has a few cards | tion to be adopted. Parliament is up his sleeve. There has been con- i due to vote on it on September 26.

siderably less wrangling within his | Under the new constitution, anyone appointed as a minister would have to stand down as a member of parliament, and the senate would be elected by direct suffrage. At present senators are appointed by the prime minister according to the terms of a constitution promulgated in 1991, when a military junta was in

(August 6)

Taking blame for bringing low a 'tiger'

EDITORIAL

LIRST Mexico, now Thailand I once again the International Monetary Fund has mounted large-scale emergency rescue plan to prevent a local moneian crisis from degenerating into a full-blown regional recession.

With the support of several countries and help from interes donal private banks, the IMF will make available to Thailand a told loan of \$15 billion. In return Bangkok has promised to put in financial house in order.

While one can only hope that this package will be an unqualfied success (the global econ-omy would suffer if the southeast Asian "tigers" were to run out of steam), questions need to be asked about who is responsible for this new financial crisis. Regional leaders have pointed an accusing finger a speculators". While such spec ulators have indeed had a hand in the situation, the responsible ity of the regional leaders them selves also needs to be stressed.

Politicians are quick to pick scapegoats when a monetary ci als blows up. And what better scapegoat than a foreign megmillionaire? With the backing of his counterparts in the region Malaysia's prime minister, Maha thir Mohamad, has accused the financier George Soros of being responsible for the whiriwind that has enguifed currencies in that part of the world. What he has in fact denounced, behind the scapegoat figure of Soros, are the financial markets.

It would, however, be unfaired the southeast Asian countries accuse the markets. In the part 10 years, Thailand and its neigh bours have been the main beneficiaries of the capital flows those markets have generated. The mistake made by those who manage global financial investment may have been rather have invested too much of their capital in that part of the world and to have lent money to mrea able countries and corporations

But financial upheavals of this kind do not occur unless more fundamental factors are at work These are to be found, in That land today as in Mexico is 1994, in unsound economic management. Bangkok let high growth go to its head. It made succession of unproductive in tments and encoun cial and property speculation.

A country cannot invest more than it saves or buy more than ! sells. There is no conspiracy, A worst, what we have seen are it vestors taking advantage of mis management by national leaders The IMF package aims to reminithose leaders of basic principles. while at the same time saving vestors bacon.

(August 6)

se Monde

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Emergency Support Personnel -Community Health Nurse 2 year contract Deployed from Oxford

Salary: £16,034 plus tax allowance to total £19,099 p.s.

Oxfam's Emergencies Department needs an Emergency Support Person (ESP), specialising in Health. The postholder will undertake a series of overseas assignments (up to 3 months each), spending a total of approximately 9 months overseas per year The key activities of this post will include implementing emergency health programmes. ncluding health education, hygiene premotion, community health, making assessments with recomme advice and training Candidates need a health qualification,

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

e.g. nursing, midwlferv, with some evidence of post graduate study preferably In community health, health prom with 2 or 3 years practical experience in developing countries, with at least half gained in emergency relief programmes. The successful candidate must be based in a place with good international access and communications, but not necessarily Oxford or UK.

Closing date: 12 September 1997. Interview date: to be arranged. Ref: OS/ESP-CHN/ED/HM/GW.

Regional Representative -Central America & Mexico

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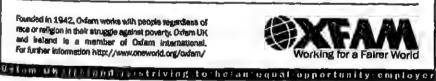
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Gaza counts the cost of Israeli blockade radio station; the Israelis threatened | is little evidence for any connection

Gilles Paris in Gaza City

O N AUGUST 1, the Erez check-point between Gaza and Israel was deserted. As always, that was bad news for the peace process. Bomb attacks that kill people in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem automatically result in the Israelis shutting off the accupied and autonomous territories of Gaza and the West Bank.

The inevitable upshot for the Palestinians, whatever the political affiliations of the suicide bombers, is food shortages and the throttling of their already shaky economy. Since two bombs ripped through

erusalem's Mahane Yehuda marers to their jobs in Israel lie idle on the vast boarding areas next to the security checkpoint, as do the lorries that take local produce and building materials across the border. Israel is out of bounds to the Palestinians, as is their fruit and

"This is one of the tightest blockades I've experienced," says one man. Not even Arab newspapers printed in Ramallah and Jerusalem are allowed through. The television programme Good Morning. Jerusalem, which is put out by the Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation. Has tried to compensate for that by reproducing the contents of up of an ancient tunnel in papers like El Hayat El Jadida, El Ayam, and El Kuds.

Palestinians were almost starved of news from their Jericho-based

end gave up the idea. dreds of Palestinian workers from the Gulf states who were visiting their families have been trapped by

- I'm with God and that's all.'

members of parliament. prise. As one of the drivers said: violence you'll find an unfortunate Israeli decision, Remember Hebron or the archaeological tunnel last year?" (The controversial opening an explosion of violence in the terri-

to jam it in an attempt to prevent the broadcasting of any programme that might "incite hatred", but in the

Here, as in the West Bank, hunthe closure.

A small group of bus drivers sit-ting in the shade of a hut in a busy Gaza City street refused at first to comment on last week's events. "I really don't care much about politics," said Adel. "I just want to be able to earn enough food. I've got eight mouths to feed at home, and

But gradually they began to talk. "The way Netanyahu refused to accept Arafat's condolences was shameful," sald a third man. The events of the past week seem almost to have improved the image of the Palestinian Authority (PA), which

has been accused of corruption by The bomb attack came as no sur-"Behind every bomb or outburst of Jerusalem's Old City triggered off

between last week's bomb attack and the posters blaspheming against Islam that were put up in Hebron recently. They firmly believe that the Mahane Yehuda explosions came in response to the building of the Jew-

tremists more popular with our people," said one man. "Anyway I wouldn't call that ter rorism — it was just a response, said Majid, who did not seem very concerned about the fact that civilians were paying the price. "During the intifada, there was no Palestinket on July 30, there has been al- I've been doing nothing for the past | ian army in Gaza, and that didn't most no traffic in or out of Gaza. two days." Another driver restop the Israelis from shooting at The buses that usually ferry work-marked: "I'm neither for nor against civilians. They got their own back on us when things were going badly for them in Lebanon."

In the bus drivers' opinion, there | we're asking for today is only a very

THEY did not seem overly con-L cerned about the prospect of Israel sending troops, as it has threatened, into the areas officially controlled by the PA. "By all means let them do that," Mahmud said. They've already occupied our territories for nearly 30 years, and what have they got to show for it? And they're still right here in Gaza," he

added, nodding in the direction of the Jewish settlements of Netzarim and Kfar Darom, which cover more than a third of Gaza. "The Israelis made peace with Egypt and Jordan after a lot of fighting, so why can't they do the same with us?" Adel said angrily. "What

small part of what used to be our land. Isn't that in itself a token of peace? They should perhaps stop acting as if we didn't exist. We Palestinians were born here, we live here and we'll continue to live here - that's what the Israelis have to understand. No one can refuse us self-determination."

A little further on, in the shade of public garden, a group of former Fatah Hawks, an organisation of young PLO activists, were angry. At least there was some hope dur-

ng the intifada," Jamal said. "We're against the bombs. What ve want is better living conditions." said Mohammed. "A young Israeli can earn money by working, he can make plans, go where he pleases, be free. I'm not jealous, I live under

OCCUPATION. "One day I came across a Jeep full of soldiers. They were quite friendly. They asked me if I had any cigarettes and I gave them some. In exchange they gave me their telephone numbers, but I never called them. That kind of thing will be impossible as long as the situation re-

mains as it is." Mohammed and Jamal earn a pittance working for a PA-sponsored anti-drugs programme. But they are better off than a friend of theirs, who has been unemployed for five years. The friend remonstrated against Westerners for doing nothing".

"The settlers will get their revenge by killing dozens of Palestinians, he said. Then Clinton will step in and put a lid on the crisis, and we'll be back at square one. The blockade could last a long time." (August 3-4)

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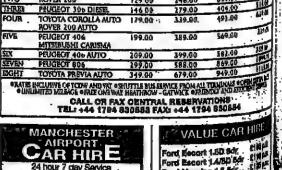
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the summer holidays and the police clearly did not put themselves out. In the outraged words of a belated parliamentary investigation earlier this year, they expended less aftention on the case than they would

have done for a missing wallet. the local supermarket, just around the corner from where the family lived in a run-down, dusty area of ten the yoghurt and, as it was only back to buy it. She never returned.

Nabela's book in The Name Of

and also killed and buried.

death ignored IVE years ago this month a pretty, nine-year-old Moroe sparseness, she tells how her sparseness, she tells how her can girl skipped down the mother eventually rushed upstairs road in Brussels to buy a pot of to wake their father, asleep after his yoghurt and disappeared. What

When no one seemed to care about the fate of a

missing Belgian Muslim girl, her sister decided

who opened the eyes and hearts of a nation

Chronicle of a

midst, its Muslim immigrants.

This is solely due to Loubna's big

sister, Nabela, still only 18, who has

fought a tireless campaign on her missing sister's behalf, first just to

keep her name in front of the police

authorities and latterly expressing

with poise and dignity a growing outrage at the breakdown of the

into adult life," she says.

or the baccalaureate.

Marc Dutroux.

and obscurity is extraordinary. But,

above all, that Nabela has done it in

devoutly Catholic country while

wearing the costume of a Muslim is

has become, simply, a national

This week has been heavy in Bel-

to take action. Stephen Bates on the teenager

nightshift cleaning railway carhappened to Loubna Benaissa has riages. She remembers him rushnow convulsed Belgium with guilt ing down the stairs in panic and out and recrimination and forced the into the street to look for his little whole country to reconsider its attigirl. "In our life, until Loubna's tudes - to crime, to the police and disappearance, we were a happy above all, to the silent, little-considfamily, we had never known mis ered and ill-used minority in its fortune."

When they reported Loubna missing, the police were casual. It took them some time to start looking for her, without result the family was told blandy that officers suspected she had been sent back to Morocco for an arranged marriage. As the years passed, nothing lappened

incompetent Belgian judicial system. 'I don't know whether I am an When Nabela periodiadult with one foot still in childhood cally visited the local staor a child who events have made to tion to ask about progress, a grow up too fast. I feel as if I was in file of ongoing leads would Snow White and met the wicked be waved at her. She was not witch. I didn't want to be thrown told that there were actually none and that the police were no But she has been. There have longer looking.

been a best-selling book, five na-What the family did not know, and tional prizes and countless television the police did not tell them, was that appearances — all while studying at the filling station along Loubna's 300m walk to the supermarket there That any teenager could have the worked a convicted paedophile moral and physical courage — or the maturity — to do all this is called Patrick Derochette. He had been convicted eight years before of emarkable. That it has been done molesting young boys whom he had lured or carried downstairs to the from a background of deep poverty filling station's cellar.

He was sent for psychiatric treatment but, remarkably, was pro-nounced cured and released after nothing short of astonishing. She 50 days despite a medical report stating he was impulsively aggressive towards those weaker than himself. He returned to his job at gium with the weight of mournful

amiversaries. It is a year since The police did look around the police stumbled on two teenage petrol station and gave a cursory glance at its cellar, but the local snifgirls held captive in an underground cellar in Charleroi by paedophile fer dog handler was on holiday and they did not bother to go back when The national rejoicing at their he returned. Instead, they accepted safe release was shortlived, for Derochette's claim that he had been within 24 hours the police found the having lunch with his brother that day. Had they ever looked more bodies of two missing eight-year-old girls Dutroux had abducted, alclosely, they might have found Loubna's body four-and-a-half years lowed to starve to death in his cellar, and then buried in his back before they eventually did.

garden. Later they discovered the For it was not until March this orpses of two missing teenagers he year, in the wake of the public outcry that followed the Dutroux affair, Loubna's disappearance in August that the police finally got round to 1992 received little publicity and lit investigation. It was the middle of ing the inquiry and searching the petrol station cellar properly. When they did so, amld the junk of car parts and rubbish, they opened a metal trunk and found Loubna's body still inside.

That Derochette had never troubled to move it says something about his confidence in police effi-On the morning of Loubna's disciency. When he was finally arrested, he told officers that Loubna the local control of the local control had banged her head on the edge of the trunk during a struggle on the central Brussels. When they got had tossed her inside because her back, they realised they had forgotopened the trunk a few days later he

her disappearance to have seen her in the back of a car. She even remembered the numberplate. The make of the car was the same as Derochette's and the numberplate matched his, except one digit was wrong. Naturally, the police never bothered to follow up the lead or note any coincidences.

HERE the story might have rested, but for the unrelated Dutroux affair a year ago. Nabela took the lead for the family in attempting to maintain police interest and public awareness. Her father and mother, despite living in Brussels for 20 years, do not speak much French and so it was left to her, the eldest of their eight children, to try to stir attention. The family never dared take a holiday, thinking that one day Loubna might come home.

There was little public interest. Television stations that would later fall over themselves to interview Nabela refused to take up the case. Every time her father put up missing posters in tram shelters, the cleaners took them down overnight.

The contrast with the official energy and public concern when the white son of an industrialist went missing was marked; he was recovered unharmed within hours.

The police eventually took away Loubna's only surviving school exercise book and managed to destroy it while looking for fingerprints. At MO metres away. Loubna was sent was apparently surprised to find to Nabela that Loubna had been school, a science teacher suggested

'Until Loubana's a van at the head of the procession disappearance we were a listed the names of all those who

had disappeared over the previous 20 years. Except Loubna. When the van stopped, outraged Arab youths clambered aboard and scrawled her name over every remaining space while the mainly white crowd wandered past indiffer-

FEATURES 23

Nabela's dignity and natural eloquence were gradually noticed. On television programmes, seated next to her silent father, clearly wrapped in his own private misery, her outrage was clear. The police authorities — pompous, red-faced, complacent-looking men — brought on to the same programmes to assert the seriousness of their investigation appeared just shifty and incompetent by comparison.

Nabela gave evidence to the parliamentary inquiry set up by anxlous politicians desperate not to be enguifed in the tide of national contempt.

She was taken to meet the prime minister Jean-Luc Deliarne - another red-faced, complacent man who did not even bother to interrupt his holiday when the hodies of Dutroux's victims were found and she was introduced to King Albert II, Queen Paola and Queen

N THE D4V that Loubna's body was found the parkamentary inquiry timshed its 1 work; Nabela had at last made her i sister a household name and public grief was renewed. Her pa ture was now routinely mounted beside those of the little girls on car windscreens and in tront-room windows.

It seemed natural for Nabela to give the oration at the funeral, addressing her sister directly: "We were so far away from realising that monsters lurked at the end of our road, that hell awaited you. During those years we searched the whole world without giving up hope and yet you were there, right next to us. The men who had all the means to find you did not do it and I do not expect that they sleep peacefully at

More than 20,000 people attended Loubna's funeral, watching proceedings on giant television screens in the park outside the 3russel**s** mosque.

Then, to assuage the national ruilt, came the awards for Nabela. For advancing the cause of women, for advancing the cause of integra-tion, for multiculturalism; prizes from the King Baudouin Foundation and the Belgian Human Rights League; and, perhaps unlikeliest of all, Brussels Citizen of the Year, voted for by 300,000 readers of the city's weekly free newspaper.

However, her sudden prominence has not pleased everyone. Racists contested the newspaper prize on ounds that, as a Muslim Nabela could not be counted a Bruxellois, even though she was born in the city. And some immigrant groups, particularly among dis-affected, second-generation youths, resent her prominence.

It helps battered Belgian selfesteem that she seems remarkably free of recriminations: "Who am I? An immigrant? I don't like that image. Don't think of me like that. I am Belgian, even though it says on my identity card that I am Moroccan."

The Belgians have had quite a few attitudes changed this year. Maybe Nabela has played a part in that, though, as she says sadly: "! would have preferred to remain anonymous, nice and warm with my



treated with contempt by official-dom. There are 70,000 Moroccans in the Belgian capital, mainly in ill-paid, menial jobs, few speaking much French and even fewer any Flemish. Old ladies clutch their handbags tighter as they approach and Belgians casually tell you that it is a good job they are there, other wise there would be no one to clean the streets. In 1995, when the two eight-year-

old girls abducted by Dutroux went nissing, in contrast to Loubna's disppearance, there was an outcry. every shop carried posters with the little girls' pictures on them. Their disappearance was constant, front page news. Only in the incompetence of the police inquiry was there similarity of treatment. When their bodies were found

there was an immediate convulsion nation that had assumed it was friendly towards children and looked after them properly. The revelations of paedophilia shattered After Dutroux was finally ar-

rested it turned out the police knew all about him too, had been warned what he was planning to do in his cellar and had even searched the place three times -- once hearing children's voices in the process without managing to find the little girls while they were still alive.

Slowly, in the outpourings of rage and frustration, Loubna's case came opened the friend of Loubna's, who knew she

opened the friend of Loubna's, who knew she

opened the friend of Loubna's, who knew she

opened the friend of Loubna's as it was apparently surprised to find that she had died.

opened the friend of Loubna's account cache the friend of Loubna's as it was apparently surprised to find that she had died.

opened the friend of Loubna had been sent back to Morocco.

In Mabela's book in The Name Of My Slater tells what happened next.

In Mabela's happened next.

opened the friend the friend to Nabela that Loubna had been sent back to Morocco.

Immigrants among the ethnic last October to protest about missing children a billboard mounted on

Lo = pu 0

Royal delights

Paul Evans

HE sound of 8,000 pairs of feet shuffling across the red gravel sounds like torrential rain but, despite a few dark clouds, not a drop falls on this bizarre parade. This long and salubrious queue of folks is dressed to the nines - flowering with all kinds of hats, frocks, suits, uniforms, robes - a human herbaceous border that seeded itself around Buckingham Palace and is now on the move, pouring into the secret world within.

I'm a hanger-on, accompanying my wife Nancy who got the invitation for her work with Re-Solv, the charity for the prevention of solvent abuse. This is a family outing. Dressing up for the occasion is a curious levelling process. I wanted one of those morning suits because the top hat would be ideal for collecting cuttings. But I was persuaded against it.

Assembled in the garden, the

border scatters like an exotic flowering of weeds across the lawn. There's a strange muttering which builds into a palpable silence. The scattering re-forms into knots and parterres, which, on the carefully choreographed arrival of the royals. ripples with claps and whispers in the finest expression of British glee. I wonder how many others are suppressing an almost uncontrollable desire to do something rash. Then it's tea and sarnles.

As a nation of gardeners, we have gardened everything - our parks, towns, countryside, our myths, institutions even ourselves. Everything is carefully cultivated, the wild restrained, even the dogs. I've always wanted to meet the corgis and there they are, in the shadows round the side of the palace, a pack of stumpy, ferocious little buggers going about their royal business with gracious determination.

The herbaceous border looks

Quick crossword no. 379

7 Final (4)



monarda, gold of inulas and subtle shades of blues, pinks and purples - a very Gertrude Jekyll scheme of understated sophistication. These flowers, so highly bred over genera-tions, still nod back in their floral the one remaining thistle. dreamtime to the wild prairie. Then, suddenly, a favourite flower which reminds me of Oswestry railway station — the pure white variety of rosebay willowherb. In its common carmine pink form, the pernicious

fireweed wouldn't last five seconds here but this desirable rarity takes pride of place, sort of. The 40 acres of Buck House gardens has everything you'd expect from a royal park: a great lawn that sweeps like an aircraft carrier, big stately trees, a fiddly rose garden; the 175-yard-long herbaceous border; a four-acre lake and an immense pot — the Waterloo Vase. Immaculately tidy Victorian

splendid with the tall reds of shrubberies baffle the noise of invisible traffic beyond. It's hard to imagine being in the centre of the metropolis - it feels like countryside. Looking around for wildlife, spy two flies in deep communion on

> Down at the pond, royal ducks are dabbling with their chicks. A regal heron poses on an island. It's a pleasant surprise to find Japanese knotweed and giant hogweed. These are two of the most maligned plants. Brought into British gardens by Victorian enthusiasm, they have escaped and colonised to such an extent that land managers now go on weed warfare courses to try to get rid of them. These wonderful plants are botanical outlaws, and impossible to dislodge now from British life. Good on 'em, and long may they thrive. There's something very satisfying in this gesture of ecological defiance.

Chess Leonard Barden

AST month's Dortmund supertournament confirmed that Russia's 22-year-old Vladimir Kramnik is now the most serious human challenger to Garry Kasparov, the undisputed world number one since 1985. Kramnik was unbeaten with 64/9, a point clear of India's Vishy Anand and two-and-a-half ahead of Anatoly Karpov, who no longer seems the force of old.

The problem for Kramnik is that sponsors and the media regard K v K or, indeed, any all-Russian matches as a yawn; so the Muscovite may have to advance his cause in this December's knock-out world championship, risking an undignified early-round elimination.

Their Dortmund game showed just why Kramnik is now so strong while Karpov has declined. The younger grandmaster attacked, pressed, niggled and regrouped until Karpov's defences collapsed under time pressure. However, cannot help feeling that the resilient Anatoly of old would have survived such positions.

Kramnik v Karpov

Nf3 Nf6 2 c4 b6 3 g3 Bb7 4 Bg2 e6 5 0-0 Be7 6 Re1 0-0 7 Nc3 White used to reach this Queen's Indian position with d4 in place of Re1, allowing Black to simplify by Ne4; but here 7... Ne4 8 8 Nxe4 Bxe4 9 d3 gains time to set up a pawn centre.

d5 8 exd5 Nxd5 9 e4 Nxe3 10 bxc3 Nc6 An interesting though risky decision. Since c5 11 d4 gives White a pawn centre anyway, Karpov decides to avoid exchanges and snipe with pieces from the flanks; but Kramnik now goes straight for attack, 11 d4 Na5 12 h4 Re8 13 h5 h6 14 Ne5 Bd6 15 Bf4 Qe7 16 Qg4 Kh8 17 Nd3 Rad8 18 Rad1 Bc6 19 e5 Ba3 20 Bxc6 Nxc6 21 Re4 White uses his extra space to channel Q and R to the Kside. Qd7 22 Qf3 Bf8! Typical defence technique. The bishop guards g? and avoids getting in the way of Black's defenders on the second and third ranks.

quickly, but there may be no de fence since if c3 38 Rxg5 c2 39 h6 c1Q 40 hxg7+ Bxg7 41 Qh3+ mates. Perhaps 37 ... Rc6i?

38 Rxg5! Bxg5 39 f8Q+ Resigns If Rxf8 40 Rxf8+ Kh7 41 Qxg5

The Mind Sports Olymplad August 18-24 at the Royal Festival Hall on London's South Bank in cludes a £6,000 five-day chess open with main, grading and junior prizes and medals. If you want to try your skill there, write to PO Box 13388. London NW3 2ZF or call (+44)171-485 9146.

Karpov v Hubner 1979. It's no often that a simple position defeats world champion, a leading grand master, plus several eminent commentators. Karpov went 1 Qc4 R62 Rc7 Qd6 and the game was later drawn. What did they all overlook?

No 2484: 1 c4+. If Kxe4 2 Re2, o Kc6/d6 2 exd8N, or Ke6 2 exd8Q, or Kc5 2 Qc7, or Kc4 2 Qb4.

West, a studious type, knew i

about leading trumps against sacrifices, and the possession of a holding such as K10 doubleton wasn't

going to deflect him from his princi

He found the scientific - son

might say idiotic — opening shot of the ten of hearts, which H won with

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

23 Bc3 Na5 24 g4 Nc4 25 g5 The h nawn is blocked, so its partner tries to force open attacking lines. Nxe3 26 fxe3 hxg5 27 Rg4 Qe7 28 Rft Rd7 29 Qg3 f8 30 e4 Qa3! Cool play. White's pieces are fully committed, so Karpov swoops on the base camp at c3/d4. 31 exf6 Qxc3 32 f7! Ready to meet Qxd4+? by 33 Kh1 Rc8 34 Ne5 RdG 35 NgG+ Kh7 36 e5, Rc8 33 d5i exd5 34 e5 c5 35 Rf3 c4 38 Nf2 Qe1+ 37 Kg2 Be7? Losing

No 2485





Trevor Baylis . . . 'eureka moment' when he saw the wider potential of his mechanism PHOTO, DICHARDOLIVER

Batteries not included

Simon Bowers

HE MAN who became a millionaire after he invented the clockwork radio believes he is set to make a second fortune from the clockwork computer.

Trevor Baylis, who works alone from his house in southwest London, is in discussion with Apple Computer Incorporated about developing the product which he believes could put a computer in every home in Africa.

Mr Baylis, aged 60, was at the Commonwealth conference on education in Botswana last week when he had what he described as "a eureka moment", realising that the mechanism used to power the clockwork radio could power a computer.

The clockwork radio revolutionised communications in parts of the Third World where there is little access to electricity. The radios, which are now made at a rate of 20,000 a | sional swimmer and a stunt man. month, can run for an hour after a "Our South African of fice has had a two-minute winding and do not need batteries. It is hoped that the clockwork computer will have a sim-

Mr Baylis succeeded in getting a low-powered laptop computer to operate for 13 minutes in Hotswana, "It was a moment which had me gig-gling and screeching," he said. "It was just a bit of lateral thinking. There's an inventor in all of us."

His demonstration brought a round of applause from delegates. Baroness Blackstone, representing the British government at the conference, said: "I thought it was an exciting new idea which could hopefully lead to increased use of technology in Commonwealth schools."

A spokesman for Apple said that the company was very excited about the prospect of working with Mr Baylis, who used to be a profes-

huge number of calls from all over Africa inquiring about the clockwork laptop," a spokesman said.
"News of this innovation has spread rapidly over the Internet " Mr Baylis received a series of re-

buffs when he first tried to get backing for the radio, called the BayGen Freeplay Radio. "I even had a letter from an august engineer telling me that the clockwork radio, which was merrily playing in my left hand, couldn't possibly work unless the

spring weighed 100 pounds," he said. A television programme on the invention finally brought the backing he required and now Mr Baylis is worth millions. He has complained that too many

companies are unwilling to take isks. When the British Design Council was shown the radio it sald it would never attract investment.

Letter from Bamako Robert Lacville

Mâh passes on

good. Your mother has died". Which mother? I quickly found out that this was Mah, the mother of Old Brother, gently expired at the age of 103. I admit I was relieved so many people in Africa die young. The deceased "mother" might have been any one of a num-ber of elderly ladies because the mother of each close friend counts also as your mother. But friends don't come any closer than Old Brother, our next-door neighbour for 10 years.

I arrived for the funeral in time for breakfast. Old Brother told me how Máh had died. My plane had been due to take off from Brussels before 1pm but was delayed. We finally took off at 2pm, and Mah breathed her last at 3pm. "She called you home for her funeral," he said. All day, people repeated the same message. By the end of the day I too was convinced the old lady had waited for my plane to take off before summoning Old Brother to be with her for her final sigh.

Africa doesn't believe in coincidence. Africa believes strongly in the power of the ancestors. Mah was perfectly capable of knowing that my plane was delayed. The elderly move slowly towards the state of "ancestor" even before they die. "She is so old, she is almost dead." said a young cousin a few months ago, expressing veneration.

The African tradition sees death as a passage before rebirth. Death is a natural part of life. It isn't death that we fear in Africa: it is the ancestors we fear, in case we have done anything to annoy them.

As we get older, our social status ncreases. After 103 years, Mah had reached the venerable state of ancestor. I have to admit that, physically, she was almost dead. We actually prepared her funeral three years ago, but she came out of her coma. Thereafter she led a was always asleep. As her doctor husband,

A Country Diary

somewhat surreal sight as they

balance on branches silhouetter

S I stepped off the late night plane, someone told me: "Welcome! I hope the trip was year, Mâh was in a state of hiber-

Other brothers and sisters arrived. The sisters went inside where they were washing the body with a lot of praying and lamenting. Nephews unloaded chairs and put up awnings between the trees. Nieces chopped onions and meat and cooked a sack of rice for lunch. The brothers and cousins sat around and talked and greeted visitors. During the morning we must have received 300 people. Most stayed for 10 minutes, presented their condolences, and left to go about their business until the burial at 4pm. The old men stayed longer. If the elderly have a "business", it is going to funerals.

We talked history and politics, or listened as the old men reminisced happily about their childhood, when Mah had been such a good mother to so many children. These men in their 70s had lived in her compound and eaten her food. Mah was a strong personality who loved kids and who left many good memories She seems to have fed the entire Independence generation, including members of every Malian govern ment since 1980

As we chatted, Old Brother's cel lular telephone rang. He announced that a great niece in Abidian had given birth that afternoon "It was a girl." observed a retired Colonel This was not a question, simply a statement of the obvious, "It was a girl," confirmed Old Brother Everyone knows what the baby's name will be. In silence, each of us reflected with satisfaction that Mah was already reborn.

After lunch the crowd gathered in the heat. Women wearing headscarves passed into the compound. men in embroidered robes joined us under the trees and awnings. At 4pm the women surrendered Mah's body. We lined up for a final prayer, 600 men shoulder to shoulder bevery quiet existence. In the past six | hind the oldest Imam. Then we months, when I visited her she carried Mah to lie beside her

Notes & Queries Joseph Harker

WHICH country has the easiest driving test?

THE SMALL Greek island of Symi has a test that consists of driving from the clock tower to the town square along the straight harbour road (a distance of some 500 metres); turning the car round and driving back. One candidate has managed to fall nine times - the last time for stopping in mid-test to chat with a passing relative. -Steve Pinder, London

THE easiest is (or was a few years ago) Afghanistan. There Afghanistan, like Saudi Arabia, is the toughest in the world. Women ving, and once you've failed the sex test there's little chance of passing on subsequent occasions. — Glyn Ford, Mossley, Lancashire

WHAT use is vitamin C to an orange?

colds. — Terry Shane, London

The fruits are tasty in order to encourage animals to eat them, but it is also worthwhile for them to contain nutrients those animals need. — Tony Green, Ipswich, Suffolk

WHY are the markers in the game of Monopoly in the shapes of a racing car, a scottle dog, a battleship, an iron, a top hat and an old boot?

HARLES DARROW, an American, invented Monopoly in 1933. Company legend has it that the tokens used in the game were was no test because there were no charms from his wife's bracelet. Aldriving licences. But equally one though versions of Monopoly have tokens are always the same - except for the intergalactic version, which uses characters from the film Star Wars. After inventing Monopoly, Darrow could well afford to buy a new bracelet for his wife, He retired at 46, a millionaire. — Claire Sawkins, Waddingtons Games, Leeds

WHY does paper yellow with age?

THE main component of paper is cellulose which, in its purest form, is nearly white and, if kept in unpolluted, cool, dry conditions, will ensuring a wide distribution of seeds. | discolour very little with time. How | http://nq.guardian.co.uk/

ever, most paper contains a variety of impurities, some of which would be ellow had they not been bleached. Many are affected by oxygen, acid, sunshine and other factors which change their chemical nature, converting them to yellowish materials.

High-quality modern paper will last centuries with little change. Even photocopy paper will retain its whiteness much better than its predecessors. — Simon Barcham, Maidstone, Kent

Any answers?

and the colour green with no danger? — Ramesh Gupta, Canberra, Australia

→ ever work? — Mario Cavalli,

weekiy@guardian.co.uk, fexed to 0171/+44171-242-0985, or posted to The Guardian Weekly, 75 Farringdon Road, London EC1M 3HQ... The Notes & Queries website is at

Jeremy Smith parently the focal point of their territory, and they provide a A RMIDALE, New South dawn chorus to stir my sleepy Wales: The heavy froats of brain. Now they are unusually noisy and playful. Today I late winter are failing to curb the natural exuberance of imminent watched as one dangled from a wattle bush by one foot, picked a spring. Wattles in the garden are in fluffy yellow bloom and green spray, then dropped to the lawn hoots are thrusting up from to offer it to its companion beforgotten daffodil bulbs, even fore pulling back and playing though the grass is sere and hide-and-seek around the trunk. most trees deeply dormant. Birds' behaviour has gone a little mock aggression, but wheeled to land beside them and all three cruzy as they respond to an unfamiliar surge of hormones. threw back their heads to warble Parrots and pardalotes are their lovely lilting song. Yet pairing off, scrapping among themselves and showing interes another toyed with sticks, but nest-building has yet to begin in in nestboxes. Wood ducks are prospecting for hollows in the big, old gum trees, providing a

A month from now stories will start to circulate of dominant male magpies attacking people near their nest trees, diving from behind to deliver sharp and often bloody pecks to the back of the head. But the members of our domestic tribe are non-violent. They perceive no hazard and ignore us as they do the cattle just across the fence.

2/4 5

(4'1-3,4) Down

Coin of the realm

1 Solid figure (4) 3 Fault-finding (8)

8 Well off (4) 9 Breakdown (or

onel) (8)

11 Study of the

darts (6)

treatment for

Pharaohs etc

14 Poleon used on

15 Measure of oil (6)

17 May beetle (10)

20 Strong curtain

fabric (8)

21 Elevated (4)

22, 23 Panorama

from above?

2 "Not In my --- " 4 Make one feel resentment (6) 5 Science of sending

messages (10)

6 Expense (4)

10 Having a snoring sound (10) 12 Drawings on walls etc (8) 13 Verse form devised by 16 Very thin (6) 18 Blackleg (4) 19 Close (4)



17



Bridge Zia Mahmood

MAY have found the perfect cure for jet lag. The other week, arriving overnight from New York, I went straight to the big game at TGR's. Those of you who know about H, the Partner From Hell, will realise that since I had just cut him for the first Chicago, I could not afford to succumb to any kind of weariness. H immediately lived up to his reputation. I picked up these cards as North:

≜A65 ♥QJ73 ♦108642 **♦**5 and the bidding started like this:

Double

Pass

have perpetrated,

Two spades was a strong opening the Acol two bid — and H's three spades showed a two-suited hand of ome kind, presumably hearts and a ninor. When the opponents rested in four spades, I could be certain we had a good fit, and a sacrifice seemed worthwhile. Just in case H had the minors, I made a takeout bid of 4NT- it's as well to take insurance against whatever he might

East, to my surprise, bid five diamonds over 4NT, apparently a nat-ural call. I was expecting H to bid five hearts over this, since he seemed to be marked with hearts and clubs — but he bid six clubs instead! Why hadn't H passed five diamonds or doubled it, if he had the minore? I didn't want to play in six clubs, so when West doubled I retreated to six diamonds. East doubled that, and H ran in turn to six hearts, which was doubled by the

vhole of the Bayswater Road. Only H could bypass five hearts bled, I reflected as I put the dummy down:

North

◆A65 ♥QJ73 108642 East 10843 **♦ KQJ972** ¥ K 10 **¥**8 ♦ AKJ97 ♣AJ1094 #2

♠ None ♥A96542. **◆KQ8763**

dummy's Jack. H discarded his dia mond loser on my ace of spades, then led a club from the dummy West won H's king with the ace and went into a trance, whereat H la formed him that it would make it

This was not true, for if West had

stuck to his guns and continued

trumps, H would have had no play for the contract. However, when West switched instead to a diamond, H could arrange to ruff three clubs in dummy and make his slam. satanically demonstrating that he attempted falsehood was actually the truth, H did not play the handin this obvious fashlon, and went down anyway by drawing the last into

The effort involved in resisted the overwhelming urge to straight my partner completely washed away any vestige of let lag.

are automatically banned from dri-

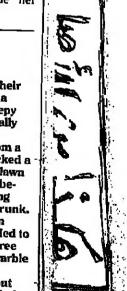
OU don't see many oranges with

NLIKE other plant parts, fruits are designed to be eaten, thus

IOW did the colour red come to be associated with danger

AN pyramid-selling schemes

against an apricot sun in the Answers should be e-mailed to norning mist. Most engaging of all are the black-backed magpies, crowsized birds with complex social behaviour and incongruously beautiful voices. Our local tribe are old friends. The house is ap-



GUARDIAN WEEKLY

Kong celebrated with banner head-

former British colony's premier iconoclast. Many Hong Kongers

might feel uneasy about homosex-

ual love, the theme of his widely ac-

one in Hong Kong has ever quib-

No one, that is, except the editors

of Wen Wei Po, local arbiter of taste

and political correctness for the Chi-

nese Communist Party. The Hong

Kong newspaper, funded and con-

trolled by Beijing, entirely ignored Wong's triumph. It did not even

mention his name, Instead, readers

were asked churlishly: "Why are so

many of the films at festivals so full

of violence, wickedness and evil?"

brought together two cultures that

seem not merely distinct but irre-

concilable. A month on, we're faced

with an unavoidable question:

Hong Kong's merger with China

bled with success.

which will prevail?

in Daughters Of Darkness.)

Kong. Add China's own studios and

Hong Kong could become the cen-

tre of the world's biggest market for,

and maker of, movies. Whether China

will fortify or cripple Hong Kong

movie-making remains to be seen,

Asian films are

making it big

with the likes

Gong Li (right).

But the industry

in the West

of actress

is facing a

Hong Kong's biggest concession

lines and admiring tributes to the

Enter the dragon

HEN the Cannes jury to its new landlord has been to stop making films that portray mainlan-

claimed Happy Together, but no changing fashion. Ah Chaan

vear's best director, Hong | ders as ill-mannered bumpkins.

TELEVISION

Nancy Banks-Smith

ALLING ALL campers Bush UTucker Man (Discovery), whose name you have to say so carefully, is back to show us how i should be done.

Always pitch your tent on high ground ("so the crocodiles don't get oo friendly"). I do this myself and have never been bothered by crocs. Wear a wide-brimmed hat, as sported by Bush Tucker himself, to catch fruit bat droppings. Repel mosquitoes with water buffalo dung. "The theory is you put it on the fire and, because it burns with a lot of smoke, it helps keep the mos- gles - she wears large pink lotus | Jamaica.

mossies) "that way you'll know if they're cooked enough.

He was camping by the Mary River in what he called succinctly "the top end". The top end of Australia, that is. Once upon a time some old prospector, opening up this desperate territory, must have named the Mary River after a female of his acquaintance. And you know immediately what the female looked like. She was what people used to call a fine figure of a woman. The Mary sweeps in languorous, voluptuous curves and sometimes simply toosens her corsets and overflows. In her curves — for she has no an-

quitoes away. Always give 'em a lilies. She does not resemble Kate kick first," (the cow pats, not the Moss in any particular.

I was relieved to notice a location caterer was listed among the credits. I've never known a TV crew prepared to live on fruit bat ("Knock 'em out of the air with a throwing stick") and lotus lily seeds ("You've got to use a pair of pliers or a lump of rock to crack 'em").

Talking of food, I thought Ainsley Harrlott, who has barbecued himself around the world as far as Jamaica (Ainsley's Barbecue Bible, BBC2), might like to hear what Noël Coward served the Queen Mother when she dropped in for lunch. Coward was then living at Firefly, once a pirate's look-out in

Like the actor manager he was. he had a full dress rehearsal the day before, trying out the whole menu on the dog. Or, to be precise, on the Marchioness of Dufferin and Ava. The reviews were ecstatic, Alas for the best laid plans. The next day, 20 to put up with. People arrive in

rolling up, I have checked the recipe with the Savoy's American

Tabasco, sait, fresh lemon and cold

consommé. Shake well and the hell

Vodka, Worcester sauce,

minutes before the Queen Mother arrived, "The fish mousse collapsed n a grey heap and had the consistency of an ordinary Slazenger ten-A happy thought saved the day. "We introduced the Queen Mother o Bullshots. She had two and was clubs after him. delighted." In case your fish

Annie (Liz Crowther) is the mother in the daily soap, Family Affairs (Channel 5). It is based on amily, not a community, so Annie k at the epicentre of the egg beater. The things that poor woman has

waves with suitcases and terrible secrets. Annie's father-in-law, markedly Geordie miner ("Ahve med sum bacon butties"), moved in when his wife fell in the canal Annie's father moved in when his wife threw him out and his gold Family Affairs is 100 episodes old mousse collapses as royalty are

this month. Five shows a week is a gruelling, unprecedented schedule. Exterior shots are at the mercy of the weather. This week there were passionate heart-to-hearts conducted in the pouring rain. You can see the shoestring. It is rather touching.

A ballet out of step with its legacy

Dan Glaister on a Kirov row over reviving Mikhail Fokine's choreography

N ambitious project to bring the original choreography o audiences has foundered after the dancers of one of the world's greatest ballet companies fell out with the granddaughter of the legendary choreographer, Mikhail Fokine. The highlight of the Kirov's cur-

rent residency in London was expected to be a performance of the original 1905 choreography for The Dying Swan, made by Fokine as a declaration of love to Anna Pavlova. The publicity for the Kirov's monthlong season promised that Isabelle Fokine, the choreographer's 30year-old American granddaughter, would "restage three ballets especially for London, using documents, notations and films of early rehearsals from the Fokine archive".

But a programme note on the first night stated that due to "unforeseen circumstances" the company would perform its traditional version of The Dying Swan and not the version promised by Ms Fokine.

At the last minute, the performance was scrapped, officially due to a lack of rehearsal time. However, it appears that many of the l'Grov's dancers refused to work with Ms Fokine, claiming the choreography was not the authentic legacy of her grandfather. Although cancelled for the first night, a compromise was reached for the second night with Yulia Makhalina performing the Pavlova version. Ms Fokine said: "The last week

has been a bit tense. I am sorry it has turned out this way. I'm attempting to recreate what my grandfather specifically states. With due respect to the Kirov, there is no one around who worked with my grandfather."

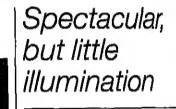
Fokine's work, which the Kirov ignored under Soviet rule until the 1980s, is credited with being this century's first important development in classical ballet. He produced the stagings for Diaghilev that launched the Ballet Russe, and changed the nature of dramatic ex-

The change in the programme is a blow to the Kirov, which is fighting to maintain its position as one of the world's leading ballet compa-nies. The Kirov has been plagued by financial and administrative problems. This dispute will be seen as the latest unfortunate incident.

At the heart of the dispute lies the question of control over choreography. Traditionally, choreography was passed from dancer to dancer, and, much like a game of Chinese whispers, over time it could end up significantly different to the original intention of the choreographer.

An accepted form of standard notation for dance steps and the advent of video facilities has meant that a choreographer can retain much more control over changes that are made to specific pieces. Most recently, ballet choreography has become subject to copyright law.

Ms Fokine said: "I'm very uncomfortable about being the choreo-graphy police, though I recognise that sometimes it's necessary, hope to use the powers of visual persussion rather than coming in with



THEATRE Lyn Gardner

TO THE bent of drums, the stamp of a foot and a distant chant the Globe Theatre in London bursts into spectacle with the first visiting company in its international festival Welcome Msomi's Zulu adapta

tion of Macbeth, Umabatha, is an event whose exuberance sometimes seems at odds with its tale of norderous acts. It is the all-singing, all dancing, all-drumming interluces that grab the attention, not the moral implications of a story the lins been transferred from Scotland to Africa. Macbeth becomes Ma batha; Banquo is Bhangane.

Msomi's adaptation follows Shakespeare's play scene for scene, but tone and interpretation are di ferent. Evil creeps up unexpected on Thabani Patrick Tshanin's Ma batha, an over-eager, puppyish chip who is hen-pecked by his wife, in exotic bird with raven plumage list the humour that is most marked in a piece of traditional storytelling that is never particularly subtle but has racy momentum

The weird sisters are an overcitable, leather-skirted trio; Ma batha's breakdown at the feast brought on by a double take of Morecambe and Wise proportions on seeing Bhangane's masked ghos while doing the Zulu equivalent of line dancing. If you know the play reasonably well it is all good fun. Svetlana Zabarova in Giselle, but there is disagreement with Isabelle

Where the production comes in its own is in the set-piece battles, in tricately choreographed dances of death during which the men poster and preen like plumed peacock The piece celebrates the domest rhythm of African life one another's hair and make hos in the background as murden acts are planned to the fore.

It is undeniably a stirring spect cle, but while I welcome a piece with as much popular appeal as [10] abatha, I cannot help feeling it is form of tourist theatre which invius to celebrate the exotic and tres as a photo opportunity.

Nelson Mandela endorses

production for illustrating the versality of ambition, greed and is Perhaps. But I would suggest that an audience unable, or never the opportunity, to understand t text, what Umabatha illustrate the irresistible appeal of tradition African rhythm and dance.

seems in no rush to extend censorship into this nominally autonomous zone. Worse because what in the West appears a cresting creative wave has already crashed. Just as Asian talent is making it big in the West, with Jackie Chan in Rumble In The Bronx, John Woo directing John Travolta in Broken Arrow and the Chinese actress Gong Li peering from the pages of celebrity magazines, the industry faces crisis at home. In Hong Kong.

the problem is economic not polit

was a popular genre in the late

tional character called Ah Chaan, a

mainlander who wins a hamburger-

eating contest. But the change has

less to do with self-censorship than

The prospects for Hong Kong

film-makers are probably both bet-

a distance. Better because Beijing

ter and worse than might seem from

stopped being funny.

Any purge of Hong Kong's "vio-lence, wickedness and evil" would cal; in China, it is both. Ideological meddling — known find a fleshy target in the Hong s "spiritual civilisation" - has ex-Kong film industry, prolific pro-ducer of bloodstained kung-fu draacted a catastrophic toll on Chinese cinema. Even the Ministry of Radio, mas, soft-porn skinflicks, irreverent Film and Television recently acart films and the world's worst subtiknowledged that scores of cinemas tles (") please your uterus, you kiss were closing because audiences were my toes. It's fair," niurmurs a lover staying away. The state pumps money into flops such as Kong Fansen, a Yet some see opportunity in the handover. Only Hollywood and Bombuy make more films than Hong

biography of a martyred model cadre, but starves real talent of funds. Celebrated directors such as Chen Kaige and Zhang Yimou make all their films with foreign money. They can film in China but are rarely allowed to screen the result. Not only did the Communist Party sit in sullen silence while Hong Kong and the world ap-

plauded Wong Kar-wai's success at Cannes, but it also but I can't leave the country. This torpedoed the hopes of wo Chinese directors -Zhang Yimou, maker of Raise The Red Lantern and Shanghai Triad, and Zhang Yuan, an independent film-maker best known for a gritty produc-tion called Beljing Bastards.

Meanwhile China's cultural commissars have celebrated the return of Hong Kong with the country's most expensive film, a \$11 million epic about the opium war. It casts Britain as the arch-villain and has gone on general release across China and in Hong Kong. The colony's verdict? Boring. "The result seems like a loud cannon blast that disappears into a cloud of smoke," scoffed Hong Kong Stan-

his passport confiscated to ensure

Cannes, "I'm free here [in Beijing]

now, but I can't make films. I'm free,

word freedom is very hard to under-

he could not watch his own film a

summed smoke, scoffed Hong Kong Standard film critic Dennis Eng.

As long as the box-office decides

Under fire . . . Brighte Lin in Chungking Express. Beijing has denounced

the international film industry as full of "violence, wickedness and evil"

worst fears - a vindictive cultural which films get made and shown in bureaucracy more interested in setlong Kong, however, the territory tling scores than making films. The should manage to escape such stutwo directors were banned from pidity. It will prevent the suffocating bureaucratic double-speak that going to Cannes because festival organisers refused to pull from curses mainland culture and drives competition Zhang Yuan's latest its talent abroad. Hong Kong, unlike production, the gay-themed, the party, does not tolerate flops. rench-funded East Palace West Palace. (The title derives from gay T THIS year's San Franslang for public toilets outside the Forbidden City.) "It's hard to ex-

cisco international film Festival, actress Maggie plain what this odd word freedom Cheung spoke of the prevailing means," says Zhang Yuan, who had mood in Hong Kong, "We're al keeping our fingers crossed," she said. "If censorship gets the way it is n China, it will be a problem because Hong Kong film-makers are ised to freedom." Her latest film is The Soong Sisters, made by Mabel Cheung in collaboration with the Beijing Film Studio. Eighteen minutes of it ended up on the censor's

cutting-room floor. Hong Kong's accountants can be s merciless as the commissars. The Hong Kong Motion Pictures Association reports that local films last year made \$85 million - nearly half the revenue of 1992. At the same time, imports, mostly Holly-wood blockbusters, have doubled their share of the local market to 46 per cent. For Hong Kong cinema a turning point as dramatic in some

ways as 1997 was 1993 when Jurassic Park became the first foreign film to head its list of annual boxoffice hits. Studio bosses responded by slashing budgets. The average film now costs \$1.5 million, hal what it did five years ago.

The audience is shrinking. The entire industry is shrinking," says independent film-maker Shu Kel, "Hong Kong films are in trouble but this has nothing to do with poli-tics." He is less than delighted with his last film Love, Amueba-style, Is it worth seeing? "Not if you have anything better to do," he says.

Any alliance with China, however, is fraught with peril, Hong Kong thrived as a centre for film making precisely because it was not part of China. The colonial government was often far less tolerant than t would like to pretend in its dying days, but it did provide a safe haven. Its film industry was caricled by an almost constant flow of talent from across the border. The traumas that destroyed Shanghai as Asia's Fiollywood — from the Japanese invasion to Mao Zedong's 1949 revolution and the lunatic political campaigns that followed - made Hong Kong ls successor.

Reunification ended when for Hong Kong, has been a profitable separation, Hong Kong must prosper as a bridge to, not a barrier against, the mainland, But as with most other business, the promise of 1.2 billion cinema-goers has so far proved a mirage. China has a strict system of quotas for foreign films, including Hong Kong productions. The big hits are from Hollywood.

To date, Hong Kong has made few political films, "When you say politics to most Hong Kong producers, they think serious," says Shu Kei. "And serious in Hong Kong means non-commercial. Films here are for entertainment."

The two, though, are not always separate. And it will be this that concerns Beijing. Shu Kei holds the local distribution rights for The Gate Of Heavenly Peace, a threehour American-made documentary about the 1989 student movement. The documentary ran for five months at a packed art cinema, far exceeding expectations. The video goes on sale soon. "Hong Kong was interested in this film because they were interested in what happened in Beijing in 1989," says Shu Kel. "The student movement means a lot to them. It was more than politics; it was part of their life. They were involved." And perhaps nothing un-nerves Beijing like the prospect of Hong Kong getting involved again.

Showing off the home-grown talent

PROMS

Andrew Clements

A S FAR as young, living composers are concerned, the Prome make a wonderful showcase. The transition from promising talent to established figure is a difficult one, and getting a platform in the orchestral world is even harder. But the proms habitually spread their bounty wider than the symphony orchestras themselves can afford to, and regularly balance premières from the big names with important, high-profile opportunities for lesser figures. None is more deserving than

r-old David Sawer, wh may not have attracted the big headlines so far but is unques tionably one of the major home-At the Proms last week the

grown talents of his generation. **BBC National Orchestra of** Wales, under Mark Wigglesworth, brought to London Sawer's The Greatest Happiness Principle. The orchestra had given the first performance in

ardiff earlier this year. Over the past five years, helped undoubtedly by a residency with the Bournemouth Symphony, Sawer has become a ugely accomplished orchestral composer, with a remarkable ear for sonority and a totally fresh

roach to form and content. The Greatest Happiness Principle is a perfect example of Sawer's knack of alighting upon a seemingly quite unmusical concept and turning it into a brilliant formal conceit. The starting point this time was the 18th century humanist Jeremy Bentham and his idea that happiness should be parcelled out into equal portions to every member of society. On to that, Sawer grafted another Benthamite invention, his design for the Panopticon prison, in which the inmates were confined in a series of circular corridors where they could be monitored con-

stantly from the centre.

Fokine over reviving The Dying Swan

Sawer has built a clever orchestral allegory of control and social neering. The musical structure is itself circular, ending as it begins, and passing through 11 sharply contrasted sections until it comes back to the strictly regimented music of the start, though by the final bars the conductor has ceded control to the orchestra; the regime has asserted itself and the players can operate without

On a more superficial level, though, The Greatest Happiness Principle is just a brilliant oldfashioned overture, a concert opener designed to put an orchestra smartly through its paces and chock full of glittering, fresh musical ideas.

Out of this unlikely material

Therapy for the blank generation

Derek Malcolm

DULP FICTION wasn't the first film to investigate the comic possibilities of killing. Hollywood has often done that, if rarely with as much flair and sheer cheek as cool, slow-burning, slightly nonchal-ant performance is almost as much l'arantino. Now comes Grosse ointe Blank, which has as its ceniral character a yuppie professional iller who goes to a psychotherapist to find out why he's bored rather than disgusted with the process. He has no conscience but would, per-haps, quite like to find one. his high school reunion is due to take place. Blank decides he might

The therapist (Alan Arkin, in the | as well kill two birds with one stone: nost cherishable of his recent roles) a girl (Minnie Driver) he stood up at Can't stand the sight of him but is the school prom and would like to also nervous that if he is over-crit see again will be there. Meanwhile, ical he'll ical, he'll end up in a pool of blood,

This is a comedy that stops just short | and another hit man means to rub of farce and tries to make moral him out. oints about the blank generation too

The film is full of well-written i Not for nothing is the young tle sequences that don't quite make killer's name Martin Q Blank. He's a satisfactory whole, particularly since the last two reels descend into played by John Cusack, who co-prothe type of comedy that emphasises duced and co-wrote the film. His action rather than character. But they are so watchable that the film works both on an ironic level and as of a pleasure as Arkin's. He is forced by his superiors,

In particular, the school reunion whom we never see, to perform the unscheduled assassination of a fedwhich introduces us to salesing eral witness in Detroit. The suburb 'estate agents, car dealers and the of Grosse Pointe is nearby, where like, is very sharply observed. It proves to the central character that what he's doing isn't much worse than anyone else's occupation.

Idealism has been replaced sheer greed. Even the hit man's girl however, the Feds are on his trail | good programme if she discusses | matic film-maker. But where it

with her listeners whether she should get back together with him. This, I'm pretty sure, is what the

film is actually about, apart from its potential for slightly off-key enterads It s Gro: Blank's failure to punch this home that prevents it winging its way nearer to the top-class quality it's seeking.

What anyone will think of Julio Medem's Tierra and Arnaud Desplechin's three-hour Ma Vie Sexuelle is anybody's guess. Both are weird but rather wonderful if you can take them at all.

Tierra is Medem's third feature after Cowa and The Red Squirrel. I has Carmello Gomez as a strange young man who may or may not be ian angel and arrives during a storm in the country to fumigate the vines. The film is deliberately obscure but brilliantly made with erotic intent. It -a radio DJ - thinks it will make a | is clearly the work of a highly cine

comes from and where it goes is well beyond me.

There's not much excuse for Ma Vie Sexuelle to last three hours, though it accumulates details about ally make increasing sense. It is acted with abandon and flair

by a cast that includes Mathieu Amairic as a philosophy lecturer whose idealisation of his best friend's fiancée leads him to ignore his own girlfriend.

When a third woman appears on his horizon, he feels he must face up to his responsibilities. But no one in the cast seem to know how to do this, least of all him.

The film is funny, a little horrific. pretentious and observant, often a the same time. But it's a bit of a slog, even though Paris looks more wonderful than it is these days. The word "edit" ought to be stamped on Desplechin's forehead next time round.



Superman's decline

Bernard Shaw by Michael Holroyd Chatto & Windus 700pp £25

T HIS death in 1950, George Bernard Shaw still bestrode the literary-intellectual world like the proverbial colossus. He was, quite simply, the most famous writer, commentator, wit on the planet. His physique, so trenchantly expressive of his caustic sovereignty, his sheer longevity - he was born in 1856 into another, almost lost world - the range of his works and the Babel of tongues into which they had been translated, give to Shaw's pronouncements an immediate international resonance and authority. Literary immortality seemed an obvious bonus.

Erosion followed swiftly on funereal culogies and encomia. The plays seeped out of the repertoire. The novels, long a minority interest, became increasingly unobtainable. The prodigal volumes of dramatic and musical criticism turned up in Charing Cross Road second-hand book-boxes. The political pamphlets, the whiplash tracts on Wagner and on Ibsen, were no longer cited. For a time, the once-acclaimed prefaces held their own. Then, they too dimined.

It is, to be sure, an exaggeration, but not altogether an implausible one, to venture that GBS survived in general awareness as the begetter, via Pygmalion, of the triumphant My Fair Lady, Nor is this condition as yet unambiguously resolved. What first-order literary or philosophic critiques have we of Shaw? How many of his plays are being staged? Where is there substantive engagement with his doctrines? This in respect of a public mind and voice which contemporaries bracketed confidently with Victor Hugo and Tolstoy.

The motives for this "subsidence"

secm to me, in certain regards, paradoxical. A number of the causes for which GBS fought so vehe-mently, have prevailed. The rights of women, the understanding of socialism, the vegetarianism, the ridicule of war to which he devoted so much of his rhetorical powers,

The New Golden Rule: Community

and Morality in a Democratic Society

A the founding fathers of socio-

logy, Emile Durkheim, set out his

reflections on the rise of individual-

ism. His aim was to find a way

between two quite contrasting inter-

One body of thought held that

"there is no such thing as society", only individuals. Social cohesion

comes about spontaneously

through the interaction of individu-

als in markets; the best thing gov-

ernment can do is to confine itself to

upholding the rule of law and pro-

vide for defence. But the conserva-

tives believed that an excess of

individualism was threatening the

very fabric of the family and nation.

Durkheim rejected each of these

positions. Modern societies, which

are highly diverse, can exist only if and Marxism are dead.

pretations of social order.

BOUT a century ago, one of

Profile Books 314pp £12.99phk

Anthony Glddens

by Amital Etzloni

have either become conventions of good sense or have modulated into a different register.

But what may matter more is that Shaw's enlistment of fiction and drama in the service of polemical rationality, or "pragmatic utopia", has become near to unacceptable in our own climate of sensibility. There is scarcely a word or sentence in GBS's vast output which is not, in the very best sense, advocacy and propaganda. We prefer our creeds to be inward, problematic, obliquely metaphoric. Shaw's combative trust in the ultimate realisation of truth, of robust decency, of clearly definable ideals, strikes us as both shal-

low and hectoring.

At his finest, Shaw handles English prose as did Swift and Hazlitt before him. A crisp light shines even through his ironies and anger. Yet it is just this sinewy, linear style that current critical-academic taste, with its investment in obscurity and convolution, distrusts.

Published between 1988 and 1992, Michael Holroyd's biography of Shaw ran to four ample tomes. It passed into the twilight of its subject. It has now been re-issued in a one-volume version. I have not compared the two texts, but gain the impression that this edition had profited from abbreviation. It still seems bulky, but reads fluently.

IOLROYD rightly insists on the fascination and self-educative energies of Shaw's early years. Today unread, the novels made for invaluable training in social comedy, dialogue and the setting of crucial scenes. Shaw's music journalism, which began in 1888, the Bayreuth experience of 1889, the polemic brilliance of the public speaker and pamphleteer were to be directly reflected in the theatrical debut: Widower's House (1892) and Mrs Warren's Profession (1893). It is the mark of mastery to incorporate and then transmute its precedent. Shaw achieved this dynamic with regard to Ibsen and Chekhov. But it may well have been Wagner (The Perfect Wagnerite, 1899) who

proved most formative. Shaw's major plays seem to derive from the Wagnerian dramaturgy of ideas and ideology; the

individual autonomy, and the needs

of social communities, exist in some

kind of balance. The acceptance of

moral responsibility towards the

community is the condition of indi-

called a communitarian. Although

Etzioni barely refers to Durkheim,

there is an eerie similarity between

the debate about individualism

going on today and that of 100 years

ago. Etzioni wants to do a Durkheim

for our times. He is a regular visitor

to the White House and his ideas

have influenced Tony Blair and

The communitarian debate today

has become far more sophisticated,

a profound rethinking of the nature

of moral values. Etzioni's work,

which is policy-orientated, goes to a

level of detail beyond that of his il-

lustrious predecessor, Charles Tay-

himself as producing a version of

socialism, Etzioni's programme re-

sponds to a world where socialism

lor. And whereas Durkheim saw

other European politicians.

Bringing moral order back to society

vidual freedom.



Bernard Shaw: lost from the intellectual mainstream

leviathan scale of Man And Superman, or Back To Methuselah look to the Wagnerian model of controlled immensity. Above all, there is a radically Wagnerian strategy in Shaw's resort to the lengthy prefaces, programmatic and didactic essays which surround the plays.

Holroyd deals admirably with both the social-theatrical and the more private background, though privacy was not GBS's forte. Shaw's relations to actors, actresses, managers, theatrical impresarios and the whole mendacious magic of the playhouse were no less intimate and formative than Wagner's.

Shaw's marriage in June 1898 may have brought stability, but it never arrested the "philandering - Shaw's own term - that brought him into more or less intimate complicity with some of the most vivid women of the age. There is autobiographical merriment in Caesar And leopatra as there is in that misshapen but persistently intriguing epilogue, The Apple Cart. It is to the "epilogue years" that Holroyd turns

Etzioni's starting point is that the

expansion of rights does not always

produce greater freedoms. The

good society is one where individual

autonomy stems from, and also con-

tributes to, the moral continuity of

rule*. For instance: in the United

States, some civil libertarians are

opposed to the compulsory wearing

of seat belts. The communitarian

recognises that enforcing the use of

seat belts actually serves as a basis

the sustaining of life and the main-

■N THE United States; and in

other Western societies, Etzioni

says, too many rights have been ac-

cumulated. Conservatives, he ar-

gues, are right to worry about a

decline in morality. The years from

the early 1960s to the 1990s have

been marked by an increasing

sense of entitlement and an inclina-

Durkheim famously described

tion to shed social responsibilities.

taining of order on the roads.

most acutely. Aged 80 in 1936, adulated at the Malvern Festival, Shaw pronounced: "I am only one o lbsen's ghosts."

Can one guess us to the future My hunch is that the narrative-critical reviews of musical and theatrical performance will re-emerge. They are often incomparable and fully transcend their occasion. Is there a finer writer of high comedy after Congreve, and together with Wilde, than the author of Androcles And The Lion, Arms And The Man, Candida or Pygnalion? It is hard to belleve that Heartbreak House. difficult as it is to produce convincingly, will not return to the theatre.

And there is, of course, Saint Joan, from its initial stirrings in 1913 to its composition a decade later. For all its longueurs and dissonances of register, this is surely one of the enduring masterpieces of English drama.

When GBS rejoins the intellectual mainstream, Holroyd's Joyal, illuminating labours will be there to

his time as "anomie" - lack of accepted moral standards. According to Etzioni, anomie is a marked feature of present-day American society. Respect for authority has

ket forces from the accumulation of rights: the first could be said to provide much more of a problem for

has weakened, and there is widespread disaffection with government. There is too much autonomy and not enough order. But Etzioni's remedy is not a rightwing one. Communitarians look for the re-creation of moral order on the basis of open. consensual participation. I am not persuaded either by Etzioni's diagnosis of our social ills or of liberty, because it contributes to by his prognosis. The book does not separate the influence of mar-

declined, the institution of marriage

the maintenance of social solidarity. Etzioni has a small section about globalisation, but does not set his discussion overall in the context of these transformative global changes. He wants "society" to recover its moral order. "Society" here still seems to mean the nation. Yet the nation state is plainly in transition. It is unlikely to become again the what he saw as the moral decay of source of cohesion that it once was.

Thrillers Chris Petit

Rogue Element, by Terence Strong (Heinemann, £10)

A FORMER MI5 agent in North ceremoniously framed by rubbs ex-employers for murdering m [8] man. In part a well-oiled and excient courtroom thriller, in part in attack on the secret state and item accountable ways and mazes the book offers an authoritative sensed inside dope, set against a lectground of international pressure.

The Amethysts, by Frank Delaney (HarperCollins, £16.99)

WRITING quality, gift-of-the-git prose, broadcaster Delang effortlessly hooks the reader with his tale of an architect mourning it. gruesomely murdered low i witzerland and encountering a decadent European couple who is pear to possess an item stolen for he dead woman. This mix of John lowles and lan McEwan turns &: mable when the architect is took n London. Things become winty and grown-up where they out have faltered into tosh.

The Art of Breaking Glass, by Matthew Hall (Orlon, £9.98)

THIS smart thriller is hard to fault. But for all the fancy wit ing and readability, it flirts with more than it delivers, and increaingly has the prodestined air of . screenplay. Charismatic nut and plosives-cum-computer wizard be friends a psychiatric nurse, be mission to hurt the bad people is the common good. This is Role Hood with a psychotic edge.

Latitude Zero, by Windsor Chariton (Orlon, £16.99)

CASTAWAYS on a desert isless
revert to primitive type in 2 cen-conscious reworking of Lord & The Flies, with plenty of childish to haviour from an adult assorbed that includes a rock star, a super model and a journalist. Dun down Golding and giving him the Cluedo treatment may not be ereone's idea of a good read, but to formula withstands more or ke any assault.

The Profiler, by Harry Ashel (Vista, £5.99)

EUROPOL. Europe's FH. e counters plenty of sales bloody-mindedness in its hun is those responsible for the hard up of several bodies. A femily filer, carrying extra subsides conspiracy that, to its lacks its Fu Manchu, Intrinsi premise, lots of chauvinism, 10 phobia, too much office police and in the end insufficient chart

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Time for chintz and tonic

Roy Porter

Restoration London by Liza Picard Weidenfeld & Nicolson 338pp £20

B COKS on the Restoration run to a formula: Character returns in triumph and then chapters follow on the glamour of his court, his mistresses and cavaliers, the gloom of the Plague and the Fire, and the political guile of a Merrie Monarch who was convinced God would not punish a man for indulging in a few pleasures, but determined he would never he forced to go on his travels again.

Most of that is present in Liza Picard's charming book — but it's relegated to the background. Stage centre is what is usually left unstated, the routine life of Londoners at large, a chronicle of everyday things which focuses on "practical details" - what people are and drank and how much it cost, how washing-day was organised, how you removed candle-grease stains, and a thousand other minutiae.

She's assembled the book in three parts. The first takes in the physical environment - London's | gay than ours all the day.

townscape before and after the Fire, its buildings, interiors, gardens and into history, Liza Picard puts her getting around (traffic jams were so bad that Samuel Pepys frequently alighted from his hackney coach Picard then moves on to the busi-

ness of living - clothes, hair, jewellery, housework, laundry and shopping, diseases and dentistry (false teeth were made of hippo tusk). The first wallpaper shops appeared, as well as new fabrics like chintz - Pepys misheard and called it "Chinke". And the last part turns to the social round, to pastimes, marriage and divorce and the social system. What comes across loud and clear is that the Restoration brought not only a new consumer capitalism but an unabashed pride in it all. One day Pepys sallied out with his wife Elizabeth in his new yellow-varnished coach:

With our new liveries of serge (for the coachman) and the horses' manes and tails tied with red ribbon and the standards thus gilt with varnish and all clean, and green raynes, that people did mightily look upon us; and the truth is, that I did not see any coach more pretty or more

faith in the black-letter evidence, delving into original sources which range from contemporary diaries to the Statutes of the Realm. Her diggings strike many gleaming nuggets. In those days before fly paper and aerosols, how did you keep flies out of the kitchen? You put aromatic herbs on the windowsill and laid blue paper on your shelves (flies, everyone knew, disliked the colour blue). Likewise, I was intrigued to learn that shoes in those days were "straight" rather than left-and-right fooled; that the most fashionable false eyebrows were made of mouse skin; and that

matched the food off his table). I was particularly struck by the section on Londoners' language, We all know that spelling was less standardised in those days and that women in particular wrote as they spoke. Thus Lady Hobart ordered 'hunicuckells" for her garden and warned about one acquaintance that she gros very malisas in hur toung to us all". But how exactly did they speak? Picard's grubbing around in

Charles II dined in public several

days a week (sometimes onlookers

what might seem to us a surprising agreement between bon ton and hoi polloi speech: both might say (for instance) that they "had hard that sarvants could not larn to make tay"; and "leisure" was pronounced n what we would hear to be the American way.

Picard's inquisitive quarrying thus strikes many a rich veln, but her book is less sure footed when it steps back to survey wider issues. Take sex. Noting that marriage came late in those days (women tended not to wed till their mid-20s, and men later still) yet the bastardy rate was low, she concludes that "sexual intercourse . . . before marriage is quickly disposed of: there was, practically speaking, none".

This hardly squares with what her book itself tells us about the City's thousands of "hoors", Recent scholars have argued, on the contrary, that there was a great deal of premarkal sexual activity going on, with the implicit assumption that in the event of pregnancy marriage would follow. Not chastity, but different habits of sexuality were the order of the day.

Elsewhere, once off home turf. the book can also be unreliable. We

elocution books shows how much | Norwich had populations greater vowels have migrated, and reveals | than 1,000 in 1660; tell that to the citizens of York or Exeter! Elsewhere we read that the Jarrow hunger march took place in the 1920s (actually 1936). And someone should have spotted that Hannah Woolley, that fascinating precursor to Mrs Beeton, is misspelt throughout.

Restoration London resembles a lucky dip, and Picard encourages the reader to take it in small doses - no bad idea, since if you read it straight through you notice irritating repetitions which more alert editing would have caught. And an opportunity has been missed with the Illustrations. These are all bunched together in three blocks. whereas this is a book absolutely crying out for a contemporary drawing or woodcut on every spread, bringing to life the unusual objects being discussed — strange foods and fashlons, such as men's risqué petticoat breeches ("all open, like a short petticoat, having no sewing up between the legs").

All the same, this is a loy of a book. It's style is both simple and evocative - in mourning, we are told, "wealth could be gauged by the width of the black ripples spreading outwards from a death in the family". And it radiates throughare informed on the very first page out that quality so essential in that, London aside, only Bristol and good historian; infinite curiosity. out that quality so essential in a

Stripping off the genes

Nicholas Lezard

Why Is Sex Fun? by Jared Diamond Veldenfeld 168pp £11.99

TO WHICH the first answer could be: Is it? I remember one bookshop which put The Joy Of Sex in its fiction section. This s not just a joke. It illustrates hat there are parts of human behavlour — perverse, counterroductive - that sociobiology finds hard to explain. Not that it might never explain the welrdest regions of human behaviour. To ake one of the less weird iomosexuality: "There is, I wish to suggest, a strong possibility that homosexuality is normal in a biological sense, that it is a dis-tinctive beneficent behaviour that evolved as an important element of early human organisa-don." Thus Edward O Wilson, founding father of sociobiology, in 1978. Nineteen years later, in a book all about the notional helonics of sex, Diamond does not ind the subject worth a mention. What he does tackle are such

problems as why, of all male mammals, only the Dyak fruit pared with our nearest relatives, he great apes, human female vulation is concealed, why we are largely monogamous, why vomen undergo the menopause and why men are so generously endowed Down There.

Even gorillas, who could literally tear us to pieces without reaking into a aweat, can only nanage members one-and-q-half inches long. Diamond suggests that our own members are the result of runaway selection, like the peacock's tail, and that "it is irge enough that if the same juantity of tissue were instead levoted to extra cerebral cortex, that brainy redesigned man would gain a big advantage." human emotions to animals:



Pun for the supple: Khajurhao temple sculpture PHOTOGRAPH: RAGHURA

I suspect that most men, faced with a brain/knob trade-off, would happily forsake a few IQ points for an extra inch or two. As for the male member as an example of runaway selection well, it doesn't feel like it. An elephant's clitoris is six inches ong. Bully for her, but so what?

There are grounds for unease rights or wrongs of Diamond's conclusions. We are going evolu tion-crazy. We have latched on to this explanation for every aspect of our behaviour with an avidity that even scientists should find unnerving.

When we are told that men . want to spread their genes around as much as possible, or that women are on the prowl for the best genetic material, or that we are a survival strategy adopted by our genes, we take it on the nod; but there is something about the language used that makes me think we are witnessing a new version of the pathetic fellacy, the attribution of

phising molecules. This might be good science but it makes bad philosophy, not least in the way that it absolves us of responsibility for our more ignoble impulses. More worryingly, it is creating a new mythology with which to grasp the world; and even if sociobiology is ultimately ing of it is wrong. As Professor Steve Jones pointed out recently "Evolution is to allegory as statues are to birdshit: a convenient platform upon which to deposit nadly digested ideas.".

only we are now anthropomo:

There isn't anything badly di-gested about Diamond's fascinating and readable book, nor that we should take his conclusions with a pinch of sait. We should, though, monitor our responses to it carefully, our readiness to concur. Perhaps It is evolutionarily advantageous for us so to do.

f you would like to order this book at the special price of £9.99 contact CultureShop (see left)

Grace notes of cricket

Simon Rae

The History of Cricket from the Weeld to the World by Peter Wynne-Thomas he Stationery Office 268pp £25

CRICKET has a long and chequered history, though perhaps not as long as previously thought. The game started in the 16th century in the Weald, which Wynne-Thomas points out was then densely forested. The local economy was based on iron, and cricket's found-

ing fathers were foundry workers. For the man in the Mound Stand, cricket history probably starts rather later with Hambledon, but in a sport run by an aristocratic fast set there was a good deal of betting, brawling, and match-fixing before the famous Hampshire club enjoyed its glorious heyday. For two decades from 1771, it was undoubt-

edly the country's best cricket club. The story of White Conduit Fields, the formation of the Marylebone Cricket Club and Thomas Lord's three cricket grounds had no chronicler, so the picture is less clear. Wynne-Thomas suggests that the MCC may in fact have been founded "in or before 1744", 43 years earlier than the official date,

The post-Hambledon period witlike Puller Plich and Alfred Mynn. but the towering figure of the 19th century is, of course, the Champion himself, W G Grace, who burst on to the scene in the 1860s with the impact of a sporting superstar such as Tiger Woods. In fact, with rather more impact, as he stood alone,

Bradman, the "Uncrowned King of Australia", achieved a similar status in the 30th century, it's difficult to compare these two giants, but Bradman's sheer consistency probably places him higher than Grace as a batsman. Grace, however, had a greater influence on the game. He raised the science of batting to an undreamt-of level of excellence, and laid the basis of modern cricket by setting new standards. Men such as

Ranji, Trumper, Hobbs, Hammond and Bradman himself, built on this foundation. Bradman's genius engendered Bodyline, which turned the cricket world upside down, but did not fundamentally change the game. After the anger subsided, Don's unstoppable stream of runs continued flowing into the record

Wynne-Thomas also offers magisterial survey of cricket's growth and development around the world, from China to Peru. He also covers women's cricket, wartime cricket, league and club cricket, and the game's finances and politics. The rise of nations as diverse as India, New Zealand, the West Indies and, most recently, Sri Lanka and Zimbabwe, to cricketing maturity and Test-match status makes fascinating reading.

What they all share, of course, is common background. However eagerly they threw off colonialism, all remained faithful to the great imperial game. But the connection beween Britain's domination and cricket's expansion can be overstressed. Wynne-Thomas's predecessor, Rowland Bowan, who wrote his history in 1970, thought cricket's decline "as inevitable" as that of the British Empire. Kerry Packer, sponsorship, Sky and the huge success of the World Cup have global sport, ready to bounce into the new millennium with all the brio of a Shane Warne top-spinner zipping through an English batsman's gate. As Wynne-Thomas says in the last line of his excellent book: "No longer will (cricket's) enjoyment be confined to the heirs of the British Empire."

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6

British dreams end in silver

Duncan Mackey in Athens

■ HE championships which had promised so much ended in the Olympic Stadium here last Sunday night with Britain failing to win a gold medal for the first time in the event's 14year history. The men's 4 x 400 metres relay team, carrying the last hopes of a victory so sorely needed after the disappointments of Atlanta last summer, could only join Denise Lewis (heptathlon), Steve Backley, Colin Jackson and Jonathan Edwards as silver-medal winners.

"We were very unlucky just as we were in Atlanta last year," said the team captain Roger Black who, with Iwan Thomas, Jamie Baulch and Mark Richardson formed the 400m relay team. "There has to come a time when you stop using that as an excuse, but I did feel desperately sorry for Kelly Holmes and lonathan Edwards because they have each been so unlucky with injuries this summer.

It was doubly disappointing since the United States 4 x 400 squad had been weakened by the withdrawals of their world and Olympic champion Michael Johnson, and world record-holder Butch Reynolds.

However, there was a welcome

surprise for Britain when the 4 x 100 | courageous failure again. The 28-metres squad won bronze medals. | year-old had desperately sought to metres squad won bronze medals. Bereft of Linford Christie, who announced that he had run his last race, they were third in 38.14sec behind Donovan Bailey's Canadians, first in 37.86, and Nigeria.

They earned their medals with some slick baton-changing not normally associated with British teams and a storming last leg from Julian Golding, who rounded off an inspired run with a dip finish to pip the

The British team took a lap of honour which seemed to fall a little flat without the gold medals, whereas the sprint-relay team of Darren Braithwaite, Darren Campbell, Doug Walker and Golding were ecstatic after their unexpected bronze.

they had won a medal as the television replay on the giant screen was inconclusive. When the result was flashed up on the scoreboard a few minutes later the youngsters hugged one another with pride and pleasure at the prospect of winning \$30,000. The way is now clear for one of them to succeed Christie as the British No 1.

Earlier Backley's attempt to become the first British male javelin as good as his word but it was not thrower to win a world title ended in enough.

If I knew what I was doing differ

ently to 1995 I would put it right." Meanwhile Solly Gunnell has reached her final hurdle and Tessa Sanderson thrown her last javelin. Britain's only two female Olympic add a world title to his two Eurochampions of the last quarter-cenpean and two Commonwealth gold tury both announced their retire-

The injury to Gunnell's left calf, It was not to be. Backley was condemned to another silver medal to which forced her to pull out of the go with the ones he collected at the semi-final of the 400m hurdles 1995 world championships in pushed the British team captain into Gothenburg and the Olympics in making a decision she had hoped to delay until the end of the season, The 41-year-old Sanderson was al-

since October 1, 1996, to the point

where I'm totally fed up."

Chiba kenya Ukraine Morocco Czach Republic Norway Russus Spain Porkugal Australia Italy Romania Polandi South Africa France Japan

Jackson, the 30-year-old Cardiff ways expected to hang up her runner dismissed as yesterday's nan, proved the Welsh dragon still javelin after these championships has plenty of fire in his belly when he finished second in the 110m Sadly she could not conjure up one last great performance and failed hurdles behind Allen Johnson of the even to make the finals. US, who peaked in the final. Delays in handing out promised

National Lottery money were The American Olympic gold medallist ran 12,93sec, the fifth best blamed by the chief coach Malcolm performance of all time and only Arnold for Britain's poor showing in 0.02sec outside Jackon's world the championships. record, to hold off his resurgent The sport is still waiting to see the rival. The Briton's 13.05sec was his \$4 million it was awarded by the UK

medals and three world records.

Atlanta last year.

Sports Council in May, in the wake fastest for three years. The Greek gods did not smile on of the inquest that followed the vicar's son Edwards as he finished country's failure to win a gold medal second in the triple jump to take in the Atlanta Olympics 12 months Britain's fourth silver. The 31-year-"Plans are there for a co-ordiold Gateshead Harrier, who lit up Gothenburg two years ago by twice nated team approach but we still breaking the world record, had don't have the resources," said promised a do-or-die effort. He was Arnold, "I've been on zero budget

Football Premiership "I'm so gutted," he said, "My heel was fine. It didn't stop me jumping

Bolton draw first blood

The Dell: the hole in the press-box roof and the hole in the home defence, the lick of paint off the field and lack of gloss on it. There was a lack of Matt, too, but the injured Le Tissier is still there. By October, when he returns, Southampton may be ready for a saviour. The 1-0 defeat inflicted by newly promoted Bolton.

quently. Dave Jones is the fourth manager in four years. Fresh from taking Stockport from Second to First Division, headmits he "may not be the finished article". His team look an indefnite article. Without the newcomers - Paul Jones and Lee Todd from Stockport, and winger Andy Williams - the los of three home points might have been a total loss of heart.

Williams, balanced and conf-

ton's central defence. The goal came in the same way, Scott Sellars slipping Nathan Blake clear beyond the appealing Ken Monkou. "We were doing well until a stupid mistake," said Jones the man ager, echolog the refrain of Graeme Souness, It was a mistake that the interval, just after wards, did not eliminate so much as multiply.

Colin Todd, Bolton's manager was undismayed by Blake's one in-five conversion rate, please at the chances created. His greatest encouragement will have come from his side's re-Hilience. Two sensons ago they scored enough but conceded

When Southampton attacked Gerry Taggert got something in the way, the full-backs Nell Con fensive shape, the midfield tucked back in support and seems founded this time on ganisation. And, thanks to

the same. "People have alrest written us off," said Jones. " up to us to prove the experti

Crystal Palace were another side new to the Premierable celebrating success on the ope ing day of the English footish season. They beat Everton at Goodison Park.

But Barnsley, the third teld to make their Premierable debut, went down 1-2 at house West Ham United.

Football results, page 32

Jeremy Alexander

OME things never change at relegation struggle is on afterbei

Other things do change, fre-

dent, did on the left what Terry Paine did for years on the right trick defenders and squeeze over centres from the byline. lie has 712 games to go and crossing precision to learn. Todd supported him well and centred better, Most of all, Jones made four one-on-one suves that told a familiar tale about Southamp

The destruction began after Atherton and Alec Stewart had scored 25 for the first wicket. With lea imminent, McGrath concocted a delivery that spat from nowhere at Atherton's throat, flicking a glove on the way to Healy. Immediately after the interval Stewart, who had

in force at the end, albeit without much wit, Gudni Bergsson and and Robbie Elliott held the de-Keith Branagan had no save p make. The side's survival spin greater resolution and better Sellars and Alan Thompson, the

chances are coming.

If only Southampton could st

cept when they deliver their verdict This in turn would maximise

GUARDIAN WEEKLY

England's Ashes hopes laid to rest

Mike Selvey at Trent Bridge

Cricket Fifth Test: England v Australia

I.I. the optimism of early A summer, all the confidence and spirit that came from victories in the one-day internationals and the first Test, disappeared into the Nottingham air like so much candyfloss. England may have been outplayed overall in this Test but for much of it they had competed on a reasonably level playing field. Last Sunday, though, was a day too far.

When Mark Waugh plucked out the catch that put the seal on the match and the series, it put the punctuation on a set of performances that had put English pretences firmly in their place. Make no mistake, this was one of England's worst cricket days of the summer.

The performances of all the Engand players will now come under scrutiny, with one Test remaining and a Caribbean tour in the offing. So, too, will Mike Atherton's status

England had been bowled out for 186 in one delivery less than 49 overs; not by Shane Warne's mastery of the arts of spin, although he did plck up three late wickets, but by the pace of Glenn McGrath, Paul Reiffel and, in particular, Jason Gillespie, the Man of the Match from Headingley.

Here the three top-order English batsmen succumbed in 20 balls in the middle of an eight-over spell from Gillespie that cost 65 runs, figures that would be considered ex-

pensive in a Sunday slog. England had no realistic chance of achieving the 451 runs for victory but a draw would have left them with the opportunity of levelling the series at The Oval, where they have a good record of success. With thunder in the air and storms fore cast for today, anything might have happened. Instead they never gave themselves a chance.

before to complete Gillespie's dis-Thorpe had been scything away at Gilleapie like the last buccaneer on

A not-so-fond farewell: Australians celebrate as Thorpe falls victim to Warne just kept wicket for the best part of | his second fifty of the match from | taken beyond England's reach. 100 overs, edged to Steve Waugh in 41 balls.

the gully and the head had been But no one could stay with him Ben Hollioake was an age gelting Now it was Gillespie's turn. After off the mark and then padded up to his success in Leeds he failed to a leg-break that would have hit midbowl with any rhythm, reverting to dle: Robert Croft smacked Warne a length too short for comfort. So, for six and then smeared the next despite the precarious situation, ball to mid-on; and, with the normal close approaching, Caddick was leg-before to a flipper. It gave Australia Nasser Hussain and John Crawley began to take advantage, adding 53 for the third wicket before Hussain the breathing space to finish the

dragged a drive on to his stumps. Yet England had begun the day In the circumstances it was unfor givable cricket, compounded two with optimism, believing that, if overs later when Crawley flicked at they took advantage of the misty Glllespie and for the second time i morning conditions, as they had on the second day, and bowled Austhe match was caught down the leg side. Adam Hollioake was then legtralia out, then the game could be won. The second ball of the day, a snorter with which Caddick removed Steve Waugh, proved a false In the meantime, however, while Warne spun away from one end, dawn. Healy arrived and turned the

retain the Ashes on 302 for three -Matthew Elliott, captain Mark Taylor, Greg Blewert and Mark Waugh all passing half-centuries. But the second morning rang to the sound of wickets tumbling, and the Australian innings closed on 427. At stumps England had made 188 for 4. with a fine knock of 87 from Alec Stewart. The match at that stage

Australia finished the first day of

match they needed only to draw to

looked evenly poised. The balance, however, quickly changed on Saturday when, apart from Graham Thorpe and Adam Hollioake, England's resistance crumbled and they were bowled out

Starting the second innings with 114 runs in credit, the tourists were given an ideal start by Taylor (45), Elliott (37) and Blewett (60) who game on its head with 63 from 78 | Elliott (37) and Blewett (60) who balls. With Ponting, Reiffel and made the England attack look a pirate ship under siege, reaching | Warne chipping in, the game was | ragged.

SPORT 31

Scoreboard

M A Taylor b Caddick G S Slewett c Stewart b B C Hotlicake M E Waugh ibw b Caddick S R Waugh b Malcolm R T Ponting b Headley

I A Healy a A J Hollioake b Malcolm S K Warna c Thorpe b Malcolm P B Reiffel c Thorpe b Headley J N Gillespie not out G D McGrath b Headley

Bowling: Matcolm 25-4-100-3, Headley 30.5-7-87-4; Caddick 30-4-102-2, B C Holloake 10-1-57-1; Croft 19-7-43-0; A J Holloake 7-0-

ENGLAND
First Innings
M A Atherion c Hoaly b Warns
A J Stewart c Herly b Warns
J P Crawley c Healy b McGrath
N Hussain b Warns
G P Thomas c Blewoll b Warns
A Holliosins c Taylor b Relifini
B C Holliosins c M E Wangh in Ro

Total (93.5 overs) 31: Fall: 108, 129, 135, 141, 243, 243, 272, 290,

290. **Bowling:** McCrath 29.5-9-71-4; Rediel 21-2-101-2; Gillespie 11-3-47-0, Warne 32-8-86-4

AUSTRALIA AUSTHALD

Second Innings

M Taylor o Hussein b B Hollocke

M Tig Stott o Crawley b Caddick

G S Bleweit o Stewart b Gardick

M E Waugh box p Headiby

R Waugh to A J Hollocke

R T Porning o Stewart b A J Hollocke

IA Hostly o Stewart b A J Hollocke

S E Warde o Thomas h Cred S K Warne o Thompe b Cruft P R Roiffel o B C Hofinako b Cruft I N Giflespo o Thompe b Hearthy G D McGreth not but

Yotal (98.5 evers)Fall 51, 105, 134, 156, 171, 275, 293, 314 Bowling: Malcolm 16-4 5.10 Floaties 14 1

ENGLAND
Second Innings
M.A. Alherion of Healty ib McGrath
A.J. Stewart of S.R. Weugh ib Relifes
I.P. Crawley of Healty ib Gillespie
N. Hussam ib Gillespie
G.P. Thompe not out
A.J. Mollicake ibw ib Gillespie
B.C. Hollicake ibw ib Wazne
R.D.B. Croft of McGrath ib Wazne
A.D. Carliffort ibw ib Wazne A R Caddick low b Warne D W Headley c Healy b McGrath D E Malcolm c M E Waugh b McGrath Extrae (b8, lb2, nb4)

Total (48.5 overs) 186
Felt; 25, 25, 78, 99, 121, 144, 150, 168, 186, Bowling: McGreth 13.5-4-36-3; Reiflel 11-3-34-1; Gliespie 8-0-65-3; Warrie 16-4-43-3. Jimpires: DR Shepherd and CJ Mitchley.

ustralis won by 264 runs

It's all change but the real revolution will have to wait

Mike Selvey On Cricket's | at the full ECB board meeting on blueprint for the future

AISING The Standard is Lord MacLaurin has called his

But MacLaurin, chairman of the England and Wales Cricket Board, came close to admitting that his plan for the first-class game was not framework in which cricketers at the 18 counties at any stage). From as revolutionary as he might have every level performed to their maxi- 1999 there will be a two-divisional,

The blueprint, conceived after consultation at all levels of the game, was, he said, "the best possi-ble plan we could put to the counties. In other words, it was a plan (with the national team the priority) he believed the counties would ac and entertainment.

knocked off the innings

But, asked if this was as far as he could take things, MacLaurin gression and this is not the limit of blueprint for the future structure of English cricket. It was presented to ideas, such as a divisional county the county chairmen at Lord's last week and, according to his lordship, was received as well as he hoped it or beyond recall. Like the good salesman he is, MacLaurin has ensured that first he has a foot in the

mum potential to achieve the best possible results. He envisaged a tion and relegation, to supersede virtual circle of success, where the Benson & Hedges Cup and Sunthe game was improved, leading to the best possible standards, results come cricket's FA Cup with 60 com-

media interest and, from that, rev- | championship games will be offset enue to develop facilities, and to reinvest in and continually improve ship prize-money relative to one-day the game. But he warned that the cricket, with the winners receiving competence of players, coaches, managers and administrators was at possibly several hundreds of thousands compared with the current £70,000. least as important as the frame-

The proposals are radical in some championship should remain our pre-eminent competition," said the areas - most notably below the first-class game where a complete ECB chief executive, Tim Lamb. restructuring of recreational cricket | However, he emphasised the financial imperative of one-day cricket is mooted -- but at the top level and its capacity to attract a younger domestically they remain the com-

The most radical proposals con-In will come, from next season, cern installing a system under which promising players are given the most competitive cricket possithe predicted three-conference County Championship with its playoffs and attendant complexities (inble at recreational level and a scamless transition to the first-class game lacking at present. The county board competition, an amalganiation of second XI and minor county one-day competition, with promotion and relegation, to supersede cricket, is one idea. More significant, though, may be day League. The NatWest Trophy, the attempt to establish a network of premier leagues for club cricket reduced from 60 to 50 overs, will be-

played to the Australian grade format - in addition to a premier club peting teams. | mat — in addition to a | hock-out competition.

The shake-up Reduction of County Championship in

counties divide into three conferences. Sides play the six teams in conferences other than their own. Play-offs decide the championship and other placings. "It is our intention that the county

• England play five or six Tests and six or seven one-day internationals each

● From 1999 a two-division 60-over National League (with promotion and relegation) replaces Sunday League and 8&H Cup. Teams to play sides in own division twice and those in other division once: total of 25 matches.

NatWest Trophy expanded and possi-

 Merge County second XI programme and minor counties. Introduce 38-side

 A national network of premier leagues for the top club sides by 1999. Also a national knockout competition.

■ Make all U17 and U19 county representative cricket two-day, one-innings

8 2/4 6

So close . . . but it's another consolation prize for Great Britain as Tyree Washington (right) of the US comes

home in front of Mark Richardson (centre) in the men's 4x400 metres relay final

Soccer stars are cleared

COOTBALLERS Bruce Grobbelaar, John Fashanu and Hans Segers were acquitted in the matchfixing re-trial at Winchester Crown Court. The Malaysian businessman Heng Suan Lim, alleged to be a middleman between the players and Far Eastern gamblers, was also acquit

Sports Diary Shiv Sharma

Former Liverpool keeper Grobbelaar was also formally discharged after the jury failed to reach a verdict on a second charge that he corruptly accepted \$3,200 to throw games. But the three footballers, whose investigation and two trials lasted more than two and a half years, face a legal bill estimated at more than \$1 million

| Indies against engality less than less tha

And Grobbelaar could still be banned from the game as the Football Association, which is conducting its own inquiry into possible breaches of its rules, said two charges against him had not been

MATEUR golfers from Great Britain and Ireland were beaten in the Walker Cup in New York. bringing their tally to Played 36, Won 4. The 18-6 margin was the worst since they lost 19-5 at Inter-lachen, Minnesota, in 1993. The

win by Justin Rose, at 17 years and 10 days the youngest player to start a Walker Cup match, and Gary Wolstenholme prevented the entire match being over by lunch on the second day.

SRI LANKAN batsmen broke England's record for the high-

est lnnings in Test cricket when they reached 952 for six as the match with India ended in a draw in Colombo. England made 903 for seven declared against Australia at The Oval 59 years ago.

Sanath Jayasuriya earlier failed to reach Brian Lara's individual highest Test score of 375, for West Indies against England less than

lost the second series, and only a the target, with 340, Roshan Mahanama made 225 as he helped Jayasuriya put on a world record stand of 576 for any Test wicket.

> Norwegian international defender Henning Berg, who moved to champions Manchester United for a simi-

> > AN ULLRICH, who won the Tour de France three weeks ago. has withdrawn from the Tour of

HELSEA further strengthened Otheir championship credentials with the signing of Graeme Le Saux for a club record \$8 million from Blackburn Rovers, Also saying goodbye to Ewood Park was the wrong."